(19) Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets

(11) EP 1 424 080 A1

(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**
published in accordance with Art. 158(3) EPC

(43) Date of publication:
02.06.2004 Bulletin 2004/23

(21) Application number: **02758814.4**

(22) Date of filing: **08.08.2002**

(51) Int Cl.[7]: **A61K 45/06**, A61K 9/52, A61K 31/4535, A61K 31/58, A61K 38/00, A61P 3/14, A61P 9/00, A61P 13/08, A61P 15/00, A61P 15/08, A61P 15/12, A61P 19/00, A61P 25/22, A61P 25/28, A61P 35/00, A61P 43/00

(86) International application number:
PCT/JP2002/008130

(87) International publication number:
WO 2003/015820 (27.02.2003 Gazette 2003/09)

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU MC NL PT SE SK TR
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

(30) Priority: **10.08.2001 JP 2001244616**

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(54) GNRH AGONIST COMBINATION DRUGS

(57) In the field of pharmaceuticals, it is intended to provide drugs whereby the preventive and therapeutic effects of a GnRH agonist on various diseases can be enhanced and QOL can be improved. More specifically, combination of drugs characterized in that the GnRH agonist is combined with a chemical selected from among SERM, SARM, sex hormone synthesis inhibitors, receptor-type tyrosine kinase inhibitors, bone metabolism regulators, drugs for immunotherapy, cytokine/chemokine inhibitors and endothelin receptor antagonists. Owing to these combinations, excellent effects of enhancing the preventive and therapeutic effects of the GnRH agonist on various diseases and relieving side effects can be established. Furthermore, QOL can be improved thereby.

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Description

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to a novel pharmaceutical composition which is a combination of a GnRH agonist and a certain drug, etc.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] A luteinizing hormone-releasing hormone which is known as an LHRH (or GnRH) is secreted from a hypothalamus and bound to a pituitary receptor. As a result, an LH (luteinizing hormone) and an FSH (follicle-stimulating hormone) are secreted and act on a gonad whereby synthesizing steroidal sex hormones. A continuous administration of a compound having a potent luteinizing hormone-releasing hormone activity results in a reduction in the number of available receptors, which reduces the formation of gonad-derived steroidal sex hormones. Utilizing such a behavior, a compound having a GnRH activity is applied clinically as a drug for treating sex hormone-dependent diseases such as prostate cancer, benign prostatic hypertrophy, endometriosis, hysteromyoma, uterine fibrosis, precocious puberty, breast cancer and the like.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

[0003] An objective of the present invention is to provide a pharmaceutical composition and a preventative or therapeutic method capable of improving preventative or therapeutic effect of a GnRH agonist on various diseases as well as improving QOL (quality of life).

[0004] The present inventors have studies intensively to achieve the above objective and, as a result, have found that, by using a GnRH agonist in combination with a drug selected from a SERM drug, SARM drug, sex hormone synthesis inhibitor, receptor-type tyrosine kinase inhibitor, bone metabolism modifier, immunotherapeutic drug, cytokine/chemokine inhibitor and endothelin receptor antagonist, it is possible to improve a preventative or therapeutic effect of a GnRH agonist on various diseases markedly, and also to improve QOL markedly. The present inventors have further studied based on this finding, and completed the present invention.

[0005] That is, the present invention relates to:

[1] A pharmaceutical composition for preventing or treating breast cancer, precocious puberty, endometriosis, hysteromyoma, Alzheimer's disease, circulatory organ disease, menopausal syndrome, equivocal complaint, cancer metastasis, PMS (premenstrual syndrome), dysmenorrhea or calcium/phosphorus bone dysbolism which is a combination of a GnRH agonist and a SERM (selective estrogen receptor modulator) drug;
[2] The pharmaceutical composition according to the above [1], wherein the SERM drug is raloxifene, arzoxifene, lasofoxifene, TSE-424, SERM-3339 or SPC-8490;
[3] The pharmaceutical composition according to the above [1] which is an improver of a fertilized ovum implantation rate after treatment of endometriosis;
[4] A method for preventing or treating breast cancer, precocious puberty, endometriosis, hysteromyoma, Alzheimer's disease, circulatory organ disease, menopausal syndrome, equivocal complaint, cancer metastasis, PMS, dysmenorrhea or calcium/phosphorus bone dysbolism, which comprises administering a combination of an effective amount of a GnRH agonist and an effective amount of a SERM agent to a mammal;
[5] An Add-Back therapy which comprises administering a combination of an effective amount of a GnRH agonist and an effective amount of a SERM agent to a mammal;
[6] A method for improving a fertilized ovum implantation rate after treatment of endometriosis which comprises administering a combination of an effective amount of a GnRH agonist and an effective amount of a SERM agent to a mammal;
[7] A method for treating breast cancer or hysteromyoma which comprises administering a combination of an effective amount of a GnRH agonist and an effective amount of a SERM agent to a mammal to reduce the size of breast cancer or hysteromyoma, followed by a surgical operation or irradiation therapy;
[8] A pharmaceutical composition for preventing or treating prostate cancer or prostatic hypertrophy which is a combination of a GnRH agonist and a SARM (selective androgen receptor modulator) drug;
[9] The pharmaceutical composition according to the above [8], wherein the SARM drug is LGD2226;
[10] A method for treating prostate cancer or prostatic hypertrophy which comprises administering a combination of an effective amount of a GnRH agonist and an effective amount of a SARM drug to a mammal to reduce the size of prostate cancer or prostatic hypertrophy, followed by a surgical operation or irradiation therapy;
[11] A pharmaceutical composition for preventing or treating prostate cancer, breast cancer, prostatic hypertrophy,

postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer or breast cancer, or metastasis of prostate cancer or breast cancer which is a combination of a GnRH agonist and a sex hormone synthesis inhibitor;

[12] The pharmaceutical composition according to the above [11], wherein the sex hormone synthesis inhibitor is a lyase inhibitor;

[13] The pharmaceutical composition according to the above [11] which is a MAB (Maximum androgen blockade) therapy agent;

[14] A method for preventing or treating prostate cancer, breast cancer, prostatic hypertrophy, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer or breast cancer, or metastasis of prostate cancer or breast cancer which comprises administering a combination of an effective amount of a GnRH agonist and an effective amount of a lyase inhibitor to a mammal;

[15] An MAB (maximum androgen blockade) therapy which comprises administering a combination of an effective amount of a GnRH agonist and an effective amount of a lyase inhibitor to a mammal;

[16] A method for treating prostate cancer or breast cancer which comprises administering a combination of an effective amount of a GnRH agonist and an effective amount of a lyase inhibitor to a mammal to reduce the size of prostate cancer or breast cancer, followed by a surgical operation or irradiation therapy;

[17] A pharmaceutical composition for preventing or treating prostate cancer, breast cancer, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer or breast cancer, or metastasis of prostate cancer or breast cancer which is a combination of a GnRH agonist and a receptor-type tyrosine kinase inhibitor;

[18] A pharmaceutical composition according to the above [17], wherein the receptor-type tyrosine kinase inhibitor is gefitinib, imatinib, semaxanib, SI-744, SU-6668, SU-101, GW-2016 or CI-1033;

[19] A method for preventing or treating prostate cancer, breast cancer, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer or breast cancer, or metastasis of prostate cancer or breast cancer which comprises administering a combination of an effective amount of a GnRH agonist and an effective amount of a receptor-type tyrosine kinase inhibitor to a mammal;

[20] The method according to the above [19], wherein a combination of an effective amount of a GnRH agonist and an effective amount of a receptor-type tyrosine kinase inhibitor is administered according to a blood level of a solubilized HER2;

[21] A pharmaceutical composition for preventing or treating prostate cancer, breast cancer, prostatic hypertrophy, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer or breast cancer, menopausal syndrome or calcium/phosphorus bone dysbolism which is a combination of a GnRH agonist and a bone metabolism modulator;

[22] The pharmaceutical composition according to the above [21], wherein the bone metabolism modulator is alendronic acid, etidronic acid, ibandronic acid, incadronic acid, risedronic acid, clodronic acid, pamidronic acid, olpadronic acid, zoledronic acid, tiludronic acid, neridronic acid, EB-1053, YH529, ipriflavone or osteoprotegerin;

[23] A method for preventing or treating prostate cancer, breast cancer, prostatic hypertrophy, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer or breast cancer, menopausal syndrome or calcium/phosphorus bone dysbolism which comprises administering a combination of an effective amount of a GnRH agonist and an effective amount of a bone metabolism modulator to a mammal;

[24] A pharmaceutical composition for preventing or treating prostate cancer, breast cancer, prostatic hypertrophy, endometriosis, hysteromyoma, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer or breast cancer or metastasis of prostate cancer or breast cancer which is a combination of a GnRH agonist and an immunotherapeutic agent;

[25] A method for preventing or treating prostate cancer, breast cancer, prostatic hypertrophy, endometriosis, hysteromyoma, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer or breast cancer or metastasis of prostate cancer or breast cancer which comprises administering a combination of an effective amount of a GnRH agonist and an effective amount of an immunotherapeutic drug to a mammal;

[26] The method according to the above [25], wherein a combination of an effective amount of a GnRH agonist and an effective amount of an immunotherapeutic agent is administered according to a blood level of a solubilized HER2;

[27] A method for treating prostate cancer, breast cancer or hysteromyoma which comprises administering a combination of an effective amount of a GnRH agonist and an effective amount of an immunotherapeutic drug to a mammal to reduce the size of prostate cancer, breast cancer or hysteromyoma, followed by a surgical operation or irradiation therapy;

[28] A pharmaceutical composition for preventing or treating prostate cancer, breast cancer, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer or breast cancer, or metastasis of prostate cancer or breast cancer which is a combination of a GnRH agonist and a cytokine/chemokine inhibitor;

[29] A method for preventing or treating prostate cancer, breast cancer, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer or breast cancer, or metastasis of the prostate cancer or breast cancer which comprises administering a combination of an effective amount of a GnRH agonist and an effective amount of a cytokine/chemokine inhibitor to a mammal;

[30] The method according to the above [29], wherein a combination of an effective amount of a GnRH agonist and an effective amount of a cytokine/chemokine inhibitor is administered according to a blood level of a solubilized HER2;

[31] A pharmaceutical composition for preventing or treating prostate cancer, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer or metastasis of prostate cancer which is a combination of a GnRH agonist and an endothelin receptor antagonist;

[32] The pharmaceutical composition according to the above [31], wherein the endothelin receptor antagonist is atrasentan, YM-598, TA-0201, bosentan, SB-217242, SB-209670, TBC-11251, BQ-123, ABT-627 or a peptide represented by the formula:

Cyclo[-D-Asp-Asp(R1)-Asp-D-Thg(2)-Leu-D-Trp-]

wherein Asp(R1) is an aspartic acid β-4-phenylpiperazineamide residue and Thg(2) is a 2-thienylglycine residue, or a disodium salt thereof;

[33] A method for preventing or treating prostate cancer, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer or metastasis of prostate cancer which comprises administering a combination of an effective amount of a GnRH agonist and an effective amount of an endothelin receptor antagonist to a mammal;

[34] The pharmaceutical composition according to the above [1], [11], [17], [21], [24], [28] or [31], wherein the GnRH agonist is a peptide represented by the formula:

5-oxo-Pro-His-Trp-Ser-Tyr-Y-Leu-Arg-Pro-Z

wherein Y is a residue selected from DLeu, DAla, DTrp, DSer(tBu), D2Nal and DHis(ImBz1) and Z is NH-C_2H_5 or Gly-NH_2, or a salt thereof;

[35] The pharmaceutical composition according to the above [34], wherein the GnRH agonist is acetate of the peptide represented by the formula:

5-oxo-Pro-His-Trp-Ser-Tyr-DLeu-Leu-Arg-Pro-NH-C_2H_5;

[36] The pharmaceutical composition according to the above [1], [11], [17], [21], [24], [28] or [31], wherein the GnRH agonist is used as a sustained release preparation or an implant;

[37] The pharmaceutical composition according to the above [36], wherein the sustained release preparation is a sustained release microcapsule; etc.

[0006] Examples of the GnRH agonist include a GnRH agonist effective in hormone-dependent diseases, in particular, sex hormone-dependent cancer (e.g., prostate cancer, uterine cancer, breast cancer, pituitary tumor, etc.), sex hormone-dependent diseases such as prostatic hypertrophy, endometriosis, hysteromyoma, precocious puberty, dysmenorrhea, amenorrhea, premenstrual syndrome, multilocular ovary syndrome, postoperative recurrence of the above-mentioned cancer, dwarfism, Alzheimer's disease, menopausal syndrome, equivocal complaint, metastasis of the above-mentioned cancer, calcium/phosphorus bone dysbolism, etc., as well as contraception (or infertility when utilizing a rebound effect after discontinuing the drug). Further, those also exemplified are GnRH agonists effective against a non-sex hormone-dependent but GnRH sensitive benign or malignant tumor, etc.

[0007] Specific examples of the GnRH agonist include peptides described in Treatment with GnRH analogs: Controversies and perspectives, The Parthenon Publishing Group Ltd., 1996, JP-W-3-503165, JP-A-3-101695, JP-A-7-97334 and JP-A-8-259460, etc.

[0008] As the GnRH agonist, for example, there is a bioactive peptide represented by the formula [II]:

5-oxo-Pro-His-Trp-Ser-Tyr-Y-Leu-Arg-Pro-Z

wherein Y is a residue selected from DLeu, DAla, DTrp, DSer(tBu), D2Na1 and DHis(ImBz1), and Z is NH-C_2H_5 or Gly-NH_2, or its salt. In particular, a preferred one is the peptide in which Y is DLeu and Z is NH-C_2H_5, or its salt (thus, a peptide represented by 5-oxo-Pro-His-Trp-Ser-Tyr-DLeu-Leu-Arg-Pro-NH-C_2H_5, or its salt, especially acetate thereof

(leuprorelin acetate TAKEDA CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES, LTD.)).

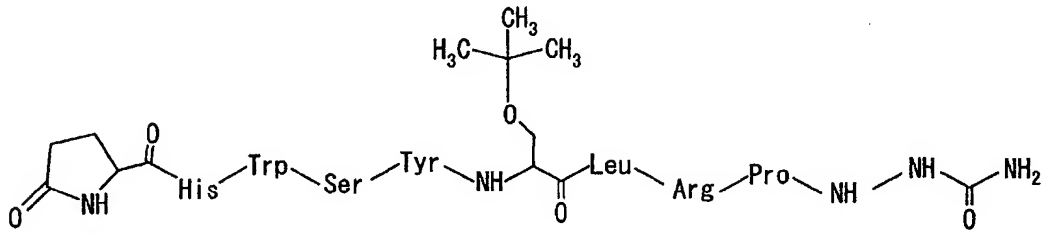
[0009] The peptides exemplified as the GnRH agonist may also be their pharmaceutically acceptable salts. As such a salt, when the peptide has a basic group such as an amino group, etc., for example, there is a salt with an inorganic acid (e.g., hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, nitric acid, boric acid, etc.), an organic acid (e.g., carbonic acid, bicarbonic acid, succinic acid, acetic acid, propionic acid, trifluoroacetic acid, etc.), etc.

[0010] When the peptide has an acidic group such as a carboxyl group, there is a salt with an inorganic base (e.g., an alkali metal such as sodium, potassium, etc., alkaline earth metal such as calcium, magnesium, etc.), an organic base (e.g., organic amine such as triethylamine, basic amino acid such as arginine, etc.), etc. The peptide may also form a metal complex (e.g., copper complex, zinc complex, etc.).

[0011] These peptides and their salts can be produced in accordance with or analogously to the methods described in the above-mentioned literatures and publications.

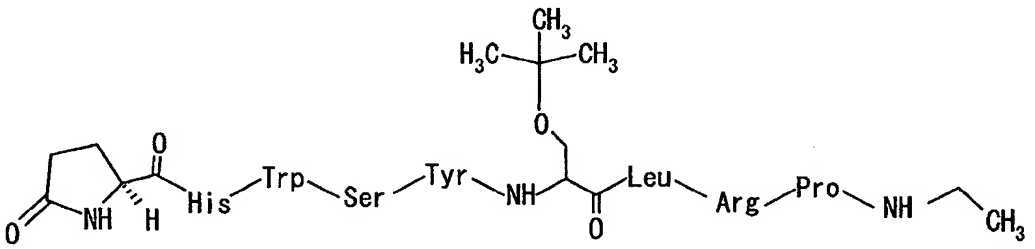
[0012] Specific preferred examples of the GnRH agonist include, in addition to the above-mentioned leuprorelin (leuprorelin acetate),

(1) Goserelin



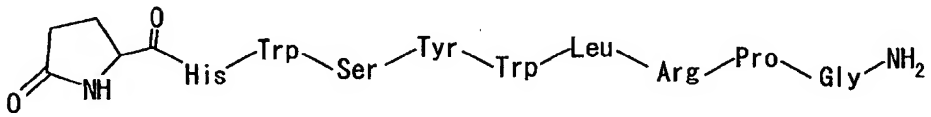
(US 4100274 A, JP 52-136172 A),

(2) Buserelin



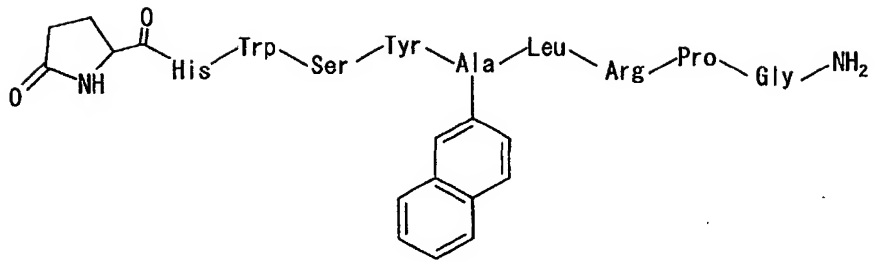
(US Patent No.4,024,248, German Patent No.2438352, JP 51-41359 A),

(3) Triptorelin

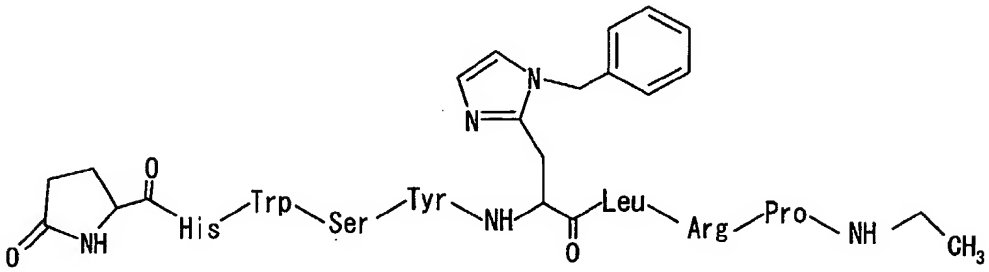


(US 4010125 A, JP 52-31073 A),

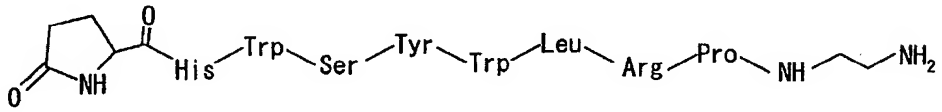
(4) Nafarelin



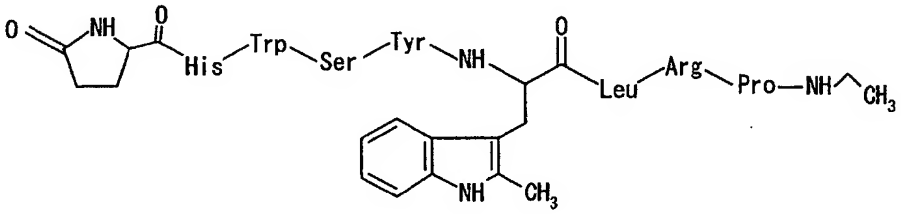
(US 4234571 A, JP 55-164663 A, JP 63-264498 A, JP 64-25794 A),
(5) Histrelin



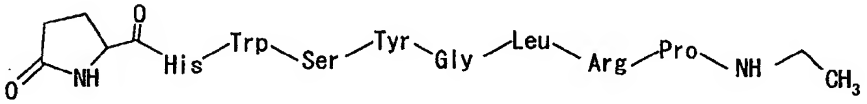
(6) Deslorelin



(US 4569967 A, US 4218439 A),
(7) Meterelin



(PCT WO 91/18016),
(8) Gonadrelin



(German Patent No.2213737), etc., as well as their salts.

[0013] The above GnRH agonist (preferably the peptide represented by the formula: 5-oxo-Pro-His-Trp-Ser-Tyr-DLeu-Leu-Arg-Pro-NH-C_2H_5 or its salt (hereinafter sometimes simply referred to as "leuprorelin or its salt)), more preferably leuprorelin acetate can be administered orally in the form of optionally sugar-coated tablets, capsules, elixirs, sustained release preparations, and the like, or parenterally in the form of injectable preparations such as aseptic solutions, suspensions, sustained release preparations (especially sustained release microcapsules) in water or other pharmaceutically acceptable liquids, implants (molded by using a biodegradable polymer as a base, encapsulated in a cylinder of a biocompatible metal such as titanium which releases an active ingredient at a constant rate), injectable preparations formed by dissolving or dispersing a biodegradable polymer and a drug in an organic solvent capable of being administered to a living body, as well as nasal preparations such as solutions or suspensions, etc. with a sustained release preparation being preferred and a sustained release injectable preparation being especially preferred. When the sustained release preparation is a sustained release microcapsule, it is preferably a long term sustained release microcapsule which releases a GnRH agonist or antagonist over a period of 2 months or longer.

[0014] Leuprorelin or its salt, especially leuprorelin acetate, can be admixed together with a physiologically acceptable known carrier, flavor, excipient, vehicle, preservative, stabilizer, binder, etc. in a unit dosage form generally required in practicing a pharmaceutical preparation to obtain the above preparation.

[0015] As additives which may be incorporated into tablets or capsules, there are, for example, binders such as gelatin, corn starch, tragacanth and gum arabic, excipients such as crystalline cellulose, swelling agents such as corn starch, gelatin, alginic acid, etc., lubricants such as magnesium stearate, sweeteners such as sucrose, lactose or saccharin, flavors such as peppermint, Akamono oil, cherry, etc. When a unit dosage form is a capsule, a liquid carrier such as a fat may further be incorporated in addition to the above-mentioned materials. An aseptic composition for injection can be prepared in accordance with a conventional pharmaceutical practice such as dissolution or suspension of an active component, a naturally-occurring vegetable oil such as sesame oil and palm oil in a vehicle such as injectable water. Examples of an injectable aqueous solution include physiological saline, an isotonic solution containing glucose or other auxiliary agents (for example, D-sorbitol, D-mannitol, sodium chloride, etc.) and the like, which may be used in combination with a suitable solubilizer such as alcohol (for example, ethanol), polyalcohol (for example, propylene glycol, polyethylene glycol), nonionic surfactant (for example, polysorbate 80(TM), HCO-50), etc. As an oily liquid, there is, for example, sesame oil, soybean oil, etc. which may be used in combination with a solubilizer such as benzyl benzoate, benzyl alcohol and the like.

[0016] In addition, a buffer (for example, phosphate buffer, sodium acetate buffer), a soothing agent (for example, benzalkonium chloride, procaine hydrochloride, etc.), a stabilizer (for example, human serum albumin, polyethylene glycol, etc.), a preservative (for example, benzyl alcohol, phenol, etc.), an antioxidant may also be incorporated. The injectable preparation thus prepared is then filled usually in a suitable tightly-sealable container such as an ampoule or a vial.

[0017] The above-mentioned sustained release preparation (especially a sustained release microcapsule) containing the GnRH agonist (preferably leuprorelin or its salt, more preferably leuprorelin acetate) can be produced by a method known per se, such as those described in JP 60-100516 A, JP 62-201816 A, JP 4-321622 A, JP 6-192068 A, JP 9-132524 A, JP 9-221417 A, JP 11-279054 A, WO 99/360099 and the like.

[0018] Among the above sustained release preparations, preferably, "a long term sustained release microcapsule capable of performing a zero-dimensional release of a physiologically active substance over a period of 2 months or longer" described in JP 4-321622 A is used.

[0019] Hereinafter, one example of processes for producing the above sustained release microcapsule will be illustrated.

[0020] First, a GnRH agonist (preferably leuprorelin or its salt, more preferably leuprorelin acetate) is dissolved in water in an amount of about 20% to 70% (W/W), preferably, 25~65% (W/W), more preferably 35~60% (W/W) and, if necessary, a drug-retaining agent such as gelatin or a basic amino acid is dissolved or suspended therein to form an inner aqueous phase solution.

[0021] To this inner aqueous phase solution may be added, as a pH adjustor for maintaining stability and solubility of a GnRH agonist (preferably leuprorelin or its salt, more preferably leuprorelin acetate), carbonic acid, acetic acid, oxalic acid, citric acid, phosphoric acid, hydrochloric acid, sodium hydroxide, arginine, lysine or a salt thereof, or the like. To this solution may also be added, as a stabilizer for a GnRH agonist (preferably leuprorelin or its salt, more preferably leuprorelin acetate), albumin, gelatin, citric acid, sodium ethylenediamine tetraacetic acid, dextrin, sodium hydrogen sulfite, a polyol compound such as polyethylene glycol, or, as a preservative, a conventionally employed ethyl p-oxybenzoate (methyl paraben, propyl paraben, and the like), benzyl alcohol, chlorobutanol, thimerosal, and the like.

[0022] The inner aqueous phase solution thus obtained is added to a polymer-containing solution (oil phase), and then emulsified to obtain a W/O-type emulsion. A known dispersion method can be employed for the emulsification

and, as the emulsification operation, there are, for example, an intermittent shaking method, a method with a mixer such as a propeller stirrer, turbine stirrer, etc., colloid mill method, homogenizer method, ultrasonic irradiation method, and the like.

[0023] Then, the W/O-type emulsion thus prepared is subjected to a microencapsulating step. As such a step, an in-water drying method or a phase separation method can be employed. When an in-water drying method is employed to prepare microcapsules, the W/O emulsion is further added to a third aqueous phase to form a three phase emulsion of W/O/W type, and thereafter the solvent in the oil phase is evaporated to prepare microcapsules.

[0024] An emulsifier may be added to the aqueous phase of the above outer phase. The emulsifier may be any one which is generally capable of forming a stable O/W emulsion and examples thereof include anionic surfactants (sodium oleate, sodium stearate, sodium lauryl sulfate, and the like), nonionic surfactants (polyoxyethylene sorbitan fatty acid esters [Tween 80, Tween 60, Atras Powder], polyoxyethylene castor oil derivatives [HCO-6, HCO-50, Nikko Chemicals], and the like), or polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyvinyl alcohol, carboxymethylcellulose, lecithin, gelatin, and the like. They can be used alone or in combination with each other. When using them, their concentration can be appropriately selected from the range of about 0.01% to 20% and, more preferably, they can be used within the range of about 0.05% to 10%.

[0025] For evaporation of the solvent in the oil phase, a conventional method can be employed. As such a method, the evaporation can be performed by stirring with a propeller stirrer or a magnetic stirrer while gradually reducing pressure, or by a rotary evaporator with adjusting vacuum conditions. In such a case, the time period required can be reduced by warming the W/O/W emulsion gradually once the solidification of the polymer has been advanced to a certain extent for the purpose of ensuring removal of the solvent.

[0026] The microcapsules thus obtained are recovered, for example, by centrifugation or filtration and then washed with a distilled water several times repeatedly to remove materials adhered on the surfaces of microcapsules such as the free GnRH agonist (preferably leuprorelin or its salt, more preferably leuprorelin acetate), drug-retaining agent, emulsifier and the like, and then dispersed again, for example, in a distilled water, and then lyophilized. At this time, an aggregation-preventing agent (for example, mannitol, sorbitol, lactose, glucose, and the like) may be added. If necessary, the removal of water and organic solvents in the microcapsules can further be performed under reduced pressure to ensure complete removal.

[0027] When microcapsules is prepared by a phase separation method, a coacervation agent is added slowly to the W/O emulsion with stirring to precipitate and solidify the polymer.

[0028] As the coacervation agent, any compounds selected from polymers, minerals or vegetable oils which are capable of being miscible with a solvent for the polymer and do not dissolve the polymer for encapsulation, and examples thereof include silicone oil, sesame oil, soybean oil, corn oil, cottonseed oil, coconut oil, linseed oil, mineral oil, n-hexane, n-heptane, and the like. They can also be used as a mixture of two or more thereof.

[0029] The microcapsules thus obtained are recovered by filtration, washed repeatedly for example with heptane, etc. to remove the coacervation agent. Further, they are subjected to removal of free drugs and solvents by the same method as that in the in-water drying method. An aggregation-preventing agent may be added to prevent aggregation between particles with each other during the washing.

[0030] The above-obtained microcapsules may be ground gently if necessary, and then sieved to remove any too large microcapsules. Desirably, the particle size of microcapsules is within the range of about 0.5 to 1000 μm, more preferably about 2 to 500 μm in terms of the average particle size. In case of using as an injectable suspension, the particle size of microcapsules may be within such a range that they satisfy the desired dispersibility and passability through a needle, for example, about 2 to 100 μm.

[0031] Examples of the above polymer include biodegradable polymers, such as a polymer or a copolymer having a free carboxyl group which is synthesized from one or more α-hydroxycarboxylic acids including α-hydroxymonocarboxylic acids (e.g., glycolic acid, lactic acid, etc.), α-hydroxydicarboxylic acids (e.g., malic acid), α-hydroxytricarboxylic acids (e.g., citric acid) and the like, or a mixture thereof; a poly(α-cyanoacrylate); a polyamino acid (e.g., poly(γ-benzyl-L-glutamic acid), etc.); a maleic anhydride copolymer (e.g., styrene-maleic acid copolymer, etc.); and the like.

[0032] The polymerization mode of monomers may be any of random, block and graft polymerization. When the above α-hydroxymonocarboxylic acids, α-hydroxydicarboxylic acids or α-hydroxytricarboxylic acids have optically active centers in their molecules, they may be any of D-, L-, DL-forms. Among them, the preferred one is a lactic acid-glycolic acid polymer (hereinafter sometimes referred to as poly(lactide-co-glycolide), poly(lactic acid-co-glycolic acid) or lactic acid-glycolic acid copolymer, and, unless otherwise stated, generally inclusive a homopolymer (polymer) or copolymer of lactic acid and glycolic acid; lactic acid homopolymer is also referred to as lactic acid polymer, polylactic acid, polylactide, etc., while glycolic acid homopolymer is also referred to as glycolic acid polymer, polyglycolic acid, polyglycolide, etc.), and the like. A lactic acid-glycolic acid polymer is further preferred, with a lactic acid-glycolic acid polymer having a free carboxylate group on its terminal being more preferred.

[0033] The biodegradable polymer may be a salt. Examples of the salt include a salt with an inorganic base (e.g., alkaline metal such as sodium and potassium, alkaline earth metal such as calcium and magnesium) or with an organic base (e.g., organic amines such as triethylamine, basic amino acid such as arginine), or with a transient metal (e.g.,

zinc, iron, copper) as well as a complex salt.

[0034] When a lactic acid-glycolic acid polymer is used as the biodegradable polymer, the composition ratio (% by mole) is preferably about 100/0 to about 40/60, more preferably about 100/0 to about 50/50. In the case of a long term sustained release microcapsule capable of performing a zero-dimensional release of a physiologically active substance over a period of 2 months or longer, the lactic acid homopolymer whose composition ratio is 100/0 is preferably used.

[0035] The optical isomer ratio of the lactic acid which is one of the minimum repeating units of the "lactic acid-glycolic acid polymer", when represented as a D-form/L-form (mol/mol %), is preferably about 75/25 to about 25/75. Those having such a D-form/L-form (mol/mol %) within the range of about 60/40 to about 30/70 are especially employed frequently.

[0036] The weight average molecular weight of the "lactic acid-glycolic acid polymer" is usually about 3,000 to about 100,000, preferably about 3,000 to about 60,000, more preferably about 3,000 to about 50,000.

[0037] The dispersion degree (weight average molecular weight/number average molecular weight) is usually about 1.2 to about 4.0, more preferably about 1.5 to 3.5.

[0038] The amount of the free carboxyl groups in the "lactic acid-glycolic acid polymer" per unit mass (gram) of the polymer is usually preferably about 20 to about 1000 μmol (micromole), especially preferably about 40 to about 1000 μmol (micromole).

[0039] The weight average molecular weight, the number average molecular weight and the dispersion degree mentioned above are the molecular weights as those of polystyrene and the correspondingly calculated dispersion degree on the basis of the measurement by a gel permeation chromatography (GPC) using as standards the 15 monodisperse polystyrenes having weight average molecular weights of 1,110,000, 707,000, 455,645, 354,000, 189,000, 156,055, 98,900, 66,437, 37,200, 17,100, 9,830, 5,870, 2,500 and 1,303, 504. The measurement is performed using a high performance GPC device (TOSOH CORP., HLC-8120GPC, detection by differential refractory index) together with a GPC column KF804L x 2 (SHOWA DENKO K.K.) and chloroform as a mobile phase. The flow rate is 1 ml/min.

[0040] The above amount of free carboxyl group is one measured by a labeling method (herein after referred to as a labeling method-based carboxyl group level).

Specifically, when exemplified in the case of a polylactic acid, W mg of the polylactic acid is dissolved in 2 ml of a mixture of 5N hydrochloric acid/acetonitrile (v/v=4/96). To the mixture were added 2 ml of a 0.01M o-nitrophenylhydrazine hydrocloride (ONPH) solution (5N hydrochloric acid/acetonitrile/ethanol = 1.02/35/15) and 2 ml of a 0.15M 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)carbodiimide hydrochloride solution (pyridine/ethanol = 4v/96v), followed by reaction at 40°C for 30 minutes. Then, the solvent is distilled off, and the residue is washed with water (4 times) and dissolved in 2 ml of acetonitrile. To the solution was added 1 ml of a 0.5 mol/l ethanolic solution of potassium hydroxide, and the mixture was reacted at 60°C for 30 minutes. The reaction mixture is diluted with a 1.5N aqueous solution of sodium hydroxide to make up to Y ml, which is subjected to the measurement of the absorbance A at 544 nm (/cm) using a 1.5N aqueous solution of sodium hydroxide as a reference control. On the other hand, when an aqueous solution of DL-lactic acid is used as a standard, whose free carboxyl group level C mol/L is determined by alkali titration, and the absorbance at 544 nm of a DL-hydrazide lactate obtained by an ONPH labeling method is designated as B (/cm); the molar amount of the free carboxyl groups per unit mass (gram) of the polymer can be calculated as follows:

$$[\mathrm{COOH}]\ (\mathrm{mol/g}) = (AYC)/(WB)$$

[0041] The "carboxyl group level" can also be determined by dissolving a biodegradable polymer in a toluene-acetone-methanol mixed solvent and titrating the carboxyl group of this solution with an alcoholic solution of potassium hydroxide using phenolphthalein as an indicator (hereinafter a value thus determined is referred to as an "alkali titration-based carboxyl group level"). However, the above labeling method mentioned is preferred because the alkali titration method involves the competition with hydrolysis of the polyester backbone during the titration which may lead to an unclear titration endpoint.

[0042] The "lactic acid-glycolic acid polymer" can be produced, for example, by non-catalytic dehydration polymerization condensation starting from lactic acid and glycolic acid (JP 61-28521 A) or by a ring-closure polymerization using a catalyst starting from a cyclic diester compound such as a lactide and a glycolide (Encyclopedic Handbook of Biomaterials and Bioengineering Part A: Materials, Volume 2, Marcel Dekker, Inc. 1995). While a polymer obtained by the above known ring-closure polymerization method does not always have a free carboxyl group at a terminal of the resultant polymer, the polymer can be converted into a polymer having a certain level of the carboxyl groups per unit mass by means of the hydrolysis described, for example, in EP 083925 A, and this can be used similarly.

[0043] The above "lactic acid-glycolic acid polymer having a free carboxyl group at its terminal" can be produced by a known method or method analogous thereto (for example, see JP 61-28521 A).

[0044] When an injectable preparation is produced from the microcapsules, their aqueous dispersion is prepared together with a dispersing agent (e.g., Tween 80, HCO-60, carboxymethylcellulose, sodium alginate, etc.), a preserv-

ative (e.g., methyl paraben, propyl paraben, etc.), an isotonicity (e.g., sodium chloride, mannitol, sorbitol, glucose, etc.), and the like, or their oily dispersion is prepared by dispersing together with a vegetable oil such as sesame oil and corn oil, whereby obtaining a practically usable sustained release injectable preparation.

[0045] An agent comprising the above GnRH agonist (preferably leuprorelin or its salt, more preferably leuprorelin acetate) (preferably an agent containing a sustained release microcapsule containing leuprorelin or its salt (more preferably leuprorelin acetate)) can readily be administered as such subcutaneously, intramuscularly, intravascularly (preferably subcutaneously) in the form of an injectable preparation or an implant (preferably injectable preparation). Further, it may be administered also in the form of the above other various preparations, and can be used as a starting material for producing such preparations.

[0046] While the dosage of the above preparation may vary depending on the amount of a GnRH agonist (preferably leuprorelin or its salt, more preferably leuprorelin acetate), dosage form, duration period of the GnRH agonist (preferably leuprorelin or its salt, more preferably leuprorelin acetate), subject [e.g., warm-blooded mammal (e.g., human, mouse, rat, rabbit, sheep, pig, cattle, horse, etc.)], it may be a pharmaceutically effective amount of the GnRH agonist (preferably leuprorelin or its salt, more preferably leuprorelin acetate). For example, a single dose to the warm-blooded mammal may be selected from the range of about 0.01 mg to 100 mg/kg body weight, preferably about 0.02 mg to 50 mg/kg body weight, more preferably 0.05 mg to 20 mg/kg body weight.

[0047] When the above preparation is administered as an injectable preparation, for an adult patient (weighing 60 kg) with prostate cancer, the single dose of the GnRH agonist (preferably leuprorelin or its salt, more preferably leuprorelin acetate) is usually about 0.01 to 50 mg, preferably about 0.1 to 20 mg, more preferably about 0.1 to 15 mg, which may be administered subcutaneously or intramuscularly. When an injectable preparation containing the above sustained release microcapsule containing the GnRH agonist (preferably leuprorelin or its salt, more preferably leuprorelin acetate) is administered, its dosage may vary depending on the release-lasting period of the drug contained in the sustained release microcapsule; for example, in case where the preparation is administered once per about one month, for an adult patient (weighing 60 kg) with prostate cancer, usually, the preparation may be administered subcutaneously or intramuscularly at a single dose of the GnRH agonist (preferably leuprorelin or its salt, more preferably leuprorelin acetate) of about 0.01 to 20 mg, preferably about 0.1 to 10 mg, more preferably about 0.1 to 5 mg; for example, in case where the preparation is administered once per about three months, for an adult patient (weighing 60 kg) with prostate cancer, usually, the preparation was administered subcutaneously or intramuscularly at a single dose of the GnRH agonist (preferably leuprorelin or its salt, more preferably leuprorelin acetate) of about 0.1 to 30 mg, preferably about 0.1 to 20 mg, more preferably about 1 to 15 mg.

[0048] In case of other animals, the corresponding dosage can be administered by converting the dose into that per 60 kg body weight.

[0049] By combining the above GnRH agonist with various concomitant drugs, the following advantageous effects can be obtained:

(1) The dose of the GnRH agonist or a concomitant drug can be reduced in comparison with that administered each drug alone, whereby improving QOL;
(2) By combining with the GnRH agonist, a concomitant drug can be selected according to disease conditions (mild or severe condition) of a patient;
(3) A longer period of treatment can be set by selecting a concomitant drug whose functional mechanism is different from that of the GnRH agonist;
(4) The effect of treatment can be maintained by selecting a concomitant drug whose functional mechanism is different from that of the GnRH agonist;
(5) A synergistic effect can be obtained by combining the GnRH agonist with a concomitant drug;
(6) Add-Back therapy becomes possible by combining the GnRH agonist with a concomitant drug;
(7) MAB (maximum androgen blockade) therapy becomes possible by combining the GnRH agonist with the concomitant drug, and the like.

[0050] Hereinafter, specific examples of the concomitant drug to be combined with the GnRH agonist will be illustrated.

(1) (Steroidal or non-steroidal) anti-androgen drugs

(A) Examples
Flutamide, Casodex, Nilutamide, SARM drug (e.g., LGD-2226), and the like.
(B) Target diseases
Prostate cancer, prostatic hypertrophy, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer, Alzheimer's disease, menopausal syndrome, equivocal complaint, prostate cancer metastasis, and the like.

(C) Effects

[1] MAB therapy becomes possible.
[2] Synergistic effect.
[3] Add-Back therapy becomes possible (SARM drug).
[4] Relieving side effects on libido, muscle, bone and the like (SARM drug).

(2) (Steroidal or non-steroidal) anti-estrogen drugs

(A) Examples

Tamoxifen, SERM drugs (e.g., Raloxifene, Arzoxifene, Lasofoxifene, Ospemifene, TSE-424, HMR-3339, SERM-339, SPC-8490, HM-101, SOC-8490, WAY-140424), Fulvestrant, ER down regulator, and the like.

(B) Target diseases

Breast cancer, precocious puberty, endometriosis, hysteromyoma, postoperative recurrence of breast cancer, Alzheimer's disease, circulatory organ disease, menopausal syndrome, equivocal complaint, metastasis of prostate cancer or breast cancer, PMS, dysmenorrhea or calcium/phosphorus bone dysbolism, and the like.

(C) Effects

[1] Maximum estrogen blockade therapy becomes possible.
[2] Add-Back therapy becomes possible.
[3] As a result of endometriosis therapy, fertilized ovum implantation rate is improved.
[4] As a result of size reduction of myoma or tumor due to the concomitant therapy, a surgical operation or an irradiation therapy can be performed more readily.
[5] Cancer therapy according to a blood level of soluble HER2 becomes possible.
[6] Diagnosis using an endometriosis-treating effect as an index becomes possible.

(3) Chemotherapeutic agents

(A) Examples

Examples of chemotherapeutic agents used include alkylating agents (for example, Cyclophosphamide, Ifosfamide)), antimetabolites (for example, Methotrexate, UFT, 5-fluorouracil (5-FU)), anticancer antibiotics (for example, Mitomycin C, Adriamycin, Peplomycin)), plant-derived anticancer agents (for example, Vincristine, vindesine, Taxol), Docetaxel, Paclitaxel, DJ-927, TZT-1027, DX-8951f (Exatecan), DE-310, Cisplatin, Carboplatin, Etopoxide, Pentostatin, Nedaplatin, Mitoxantrone, Procarbazine, Sobuzoxane, Tretinoin, Toremifene, Krestin, Ubenimex, Picibanil, Lentinan, Sizofilan, and the like.

(B) Target diseases

Prostate cancer, breast cancer, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer or breast cancer.

(C) Effects

[1] Synergistic effects.
[2] Relieving side effects.

(4) 5α-Reductase inhibitors

(A) Examples

[1] 5α-Reductase 2 inhibitors

Finasteride, Dutasteride, Izonsterido, Epristeride and the like.

[2] 5α-Reductase 1 inhibitors

Compounds described in WO93/23420, WO95/11254, 4,7β-dimethyl-4-aza-5α-cholestan-3-one, 3-oxo-4-aza-4,7β-dimethyl-16β-(4-chlorophenoxy)-5α-androstane, 3-oxo-4-aza-4,7β-dimethyl-16β-(phenoxy)-5α-androstane, and the like.

[3] Dual-inhibitors of 5α-Reductase 1 and 5α-Reductase 2

Compounds described in WO95/07927, 3-oxo-4-aza-17β-(2,5-trisfluoromethylphenyl-carbamoyl)-5α-androstane, and the like.

(B) Target diseases

Prostate cancer, prostatic hypertrophy, precocious puberty, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer, Alzheimer's disease, metastasis of prostate cancer, and the like.

(C) Effects

[1] MAB therapy becomes possible.
[2] Synergistic effects.
[3] Relieving side effects.

(5) α-Receptor inhibitors

(A) Examples

Tamusulosin, Prazosin, Terazosin, Doxazosin, Selodosin, Alfzosin, and the like.

(B) Target diseases

Prostatic hypertrophy, and the like.

(C) Effects

[1] Synergistic effects.
[2] Reliving side effects.

(6) Aromatase inhibitors

(A) Examples

Anastrozole, Letrozole, Finrozole, Exemestane, and the like.

(B) Target diseases

Breast cancer, precocious puberty, endometriosis, endometriosis, postoperative recurrence of breast cancer, circulatory organ disease, menopausal syndrome, metastasis of breast cancer, and the like.

(C) Effects

[1] Maximum estrogen blockade therapy becomes possible.
[2] Synergistic effects.
[3] Relieving side effects.
[4] As a result of endometriosis therapy, a fertilized ovum implantation rate is improved.
[5] As a result of size reduction of myoma or tumor due to the concomitant therapy, a surgical operation or an irradiation therapy can be performed more readily.

(7) 17β-Hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase inhibitors

(B) Target diseases

Prostate cancer, breast cancer, prostatic hypertrophy, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer or breast cancer, metastasis of prostate cancer or breast cancer, and the like.

(C) Effects

[1] MAB and maximum estrogen blockade therapy become possible.
[2] As a result of endometriosis therapy, a fertilized ovum implantation rate is improved.
[3] As a result of size reduced of myoma or tumor due to the concomitant therapy, a surgical operation or an irradiation therapy can be preformed more readily.

(8) Adrenal androgen production inhibitors

(B) Target diseases

Prostate cancer, breast cancer, prostatic hypertrophy, precocious puberty, endometriosis, endometriosis, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer or breast cancer, Alzheimer's disease, metastasis of prostate cancer or breast cancer and the like.

(C) Effects

[1] MAB and maximum estrogen blockade therapy become possible.
[2] Synergistic effects.
[3] Relieving side effects.

[4] As a result of size reduction of myoma or tumor due to the concomitant therapy, a surgical operation or an irradiation therapy can be performed more readily.

(9) Sex hormone synthesis inhibitors

[1] Lyase inhibitors

(A) Examples

Lyase (C17,20-lyase) inhibitors such as Abiraterone, (±)-7-(5-methoxybenzo[b]thiophen-2-yl)-6,7-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazol-7-ol, (±)-7-(5-fluorobenzo[b]thiophen-2-yl)-6,7-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[1,2-c] imidazol-7-ol, (±)-7-(4'-fluoro [1,1'-biphenyl]-3-yl)-6,7-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazol-7-ol, (±)-7-(4'-fluoro[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-6,7-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazol-7-ol, (±)-6-(7-hydroxy-6,7-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazol-7-yl)-N-methyl-2-naphthamide, (±)-N-ethyl-6-(7-hydroxy-6,7-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo [1,2-c]imidazol-7-yl)-2-naphthamide, (±)-6-(7-hydroxy-6,7-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazol-7-yl)-N-isopropyl-2-naphthamide, (±)-6-(7-hydroxy-6,7-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazol-7-yl)-2-naphthamide, (±)-7-(4'-fluoro[1,1'-biphenyl]-3-yl)-6,7-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazol-7-ol, (±)-7-(4'-fluoro[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-6,7-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazol-7-ol, (±)-6-(7-hydroxy-6,7-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazol-7-yl)-N-methyl-2-naphthamide, (±)-6-(7-hydroxy-6,7-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazol-7-yl)-2-naphthamide, (+)-7-(4'-fluoro[1,1'-biphenyl]-3-yl)-6,7-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[1,2-c] imidazol-7-ol, (-)-7-(4'-fluoro[1,1'-biphenyl]-3-yl)-6,7-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo [1,2-c]imidazol-7-ol, (+)-7-(4'-fluoro[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-6,7-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazol-7-ol, (-)-7-(4'-fluoro[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-6,7-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[1,2-c] imidazol-7-ol, (+)-6-(7-hydroxy-6,7-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazol-7-yl)-N-methyl-2-naphthamide, (-)-6-(7-hydroxy-6,7-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazol-7-yl)-N-methyl-2-naphthamide, (+)-6-(7-hydroxy-6,7-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[1,2-c] imidazol-7-yl)-2-naphthamide, (-)-6-(7-hydroxy-6,7-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo [1,2-c]imidazol-7-yl)-2-naphthamide and the like.

(B) Target diseases

Prostate cancer, breast cancer, prostatic hypertrophy, precocious puberty, endometriosis, endometriosis, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer or breast cancer, Alzheimer's disease, metastasis of prostate cancer or breast cancer, and the like.

(C) Effects

[1] MAB and maximum estrogen blockade therapy become possible.
[2] Synergistic effects.
[3] Relieving side effects.
[4] As a result of size reduction of myoma or tumor due to the concomitant therapy, a surgical operation or an irradiation therapy can be performed more readily.

(10) Phosphorylase inhibitors

(B) Target diseases

Prostate cancer, breast cancer, metastasis of prostate cancer or breast cancer, and the like.

(C) Effects

[1] Synergistic effects.
[2] Relieving side effects.
[3] Cancer therapy according to a blood level of soluble HER2 becomes possible.

(11) Tyrosine phosphorylase inhibitors

(B) Target diseases

Prostate cancer, breast cancer, metastasis of prostate cancer or breast cancer, and the like.

(C) Effects

[1] Synergistic effects.
[2] Relieving side effects.
[3] Cancer therapy according to a blood level of soluble HER2 becomes possible.

(12) Hormone therapeutic agents

(A) Examples

Progesterone agent (e.g., MPA, etc.), androgen drug, estrogen drug, growth hormone and its derivative, growth hormone secretion-promoting drug, and the like.

(B) Target diseases

Dwarfism, menopausal syndrome, equivocal complaint, and the like.

(C) Effects

[1] MAB therapy becomes possible.
[2] Synergistic effects.
[3] Relieving side effects.
[4] Cancer therapy according to a blood level of soluble HER2 becomes possible.

(13) Receptor-type tyrosine kinase inhibitors

(A) Examples

Gefitinib (iressa)™), Imatinib mesilate (Glibec™), ODI-774, Semaxanib, SU-6668, SU-101, GW-2016, CI-1033, Cetuximab, 2-[1-[3-[4-[2-[(E)-2-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)ethenyl]oxazol-4-yl]methoxyphenyl]propyl]-1H-imidazol-2-yl]-1-ethanol, 1-{3-[3-({2-[(E)-2-(2,4-difluorophenyl)ethenyl]-1,3-oxazol-4-yl}methoxy)phenyl]propyl}-1H-1,2,3-triazole, 1-(4-{4-[(2-{(E)-2-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]ethenyl}-1,3-oxazol-4-yl)methoxy]phenyl}butyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole, 2-[1-[4-[4-[[2-[(E)-2-(4-ethylphenyl)ethenyl]-1,3-oxazol-4-yl]methoxy]phenyl]butyl]-1H-imidazol-2-yl]-1-ethanol, [1-[4-[4-[[2-[(E)-2-(2,6-difluorophenyl)ethenyl]-1,3-oxazol-4-yl]methoxy]phenyl]butyl]-1H-1,2,3-triazole, 3-[1-(3-{3-[(2-{(E)-2-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]ethenyl}-1,3-oxazol-4-yl)methoxy]phenyl}propyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl]-1,2-propanediol, 3-(1-{4-[4-({2-[(E)-2-(2,4-difluorophenyl)ethenyl]-1,3-oxazol-4-yl}methoxy)phenyl]butyl}-1H-imidazol-2-yl)-1,2-propanediol, [1-[4-[4-[[2-[(E)-2-(4-methylphenyl)ethenyl]-1,3-oxazol-4-yl]methoxy]phenyl]butyl]-1H-1,2,3-triazole, 1-(3-{3-[(2-{(E)-2-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]ethenyl}-1,3-oxazol-4-yl)methoxy]phenyl}propyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole or 1-(3-{3-[(2-{(E)-2-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]ethenyl}-1,3-oxazol-4-yl)methoxy]phenyl}propyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole or its salt, and the like.

(B) Target diseases

Prostate cancer, breast cancer, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer or breast cancer, metastasis of prostate cancer or breast cancer, and the like.

(C) Effects

[1] MAB therapy becomes possible.
[2] Synergistic effects.
[3] Relieving side effects.
[4] Cancer therapy according to a blood level of soluble HER2 becomes possible.

(14) Bone metabolism modulators

(A) Examples

Bisphosphonates (bisphosphonic acid), bisphosphonate compounds (e.g., alendronic acid, etidronic acid, ibandronic acid, incadronic acid, risedronic acid, clodronic acid, pamidronic acid, olpadronic acid, zoledronic acid, tiludronic acid, neridronic acid, minodronic acid, EB-1053, YH529, etc.), growth hormone secretion-promoting agent (MK-0677), Ipriflavone, Osteoprotegerin, and the like.

(B) Target diseases

Prostate cancer, breast cancer, prostatic hypertrophy, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer or breast cancer, bone metastasis of prostate cancer or breast cancer, menopausal syndrome, calcium/phosphorus bone dysbolism, and the like.

(C) Effects

[1] Synergistic effects.
[2] Relieving side effects.
[3] Bone pain can be mitigated.

(15) Immunotherapeutic agents

(15-1) Antibodies, vaccines and immunopotentiators employed in prostate (cancer)-specific immunotherapy

(A) Examples

For example, microbial or bacterial cell components (for example, muramyl dipeptide derivatives, picibanil), polysaccharides having immune enhancing activity (for example, lentinan, schizophyllan, Kestin), cytokines obtained by genetic engineering technique (for example, interferon, interleukin), etc. are used. Specifically, there are PSMA (Prostate-Specific Membrane Antigen) vaccine (Northwest Bio), Dendritic cell therapy (Dendreon), MDX-220 (Medarex), MAB-PSMA (Biovation), Anti-PSM vaccine (M&E Biothech), Prostate cancer vaccine (Corxia), MAb-PSA (AltaRex), MAb-PSMA (Northwestbiotherapeutics), MAb-PSCA (UroGenesys), and the like.

(B) Target diseases

Prostate cancer, breast cancer, prostatic hypertrophy, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer or breast cancer, metastasis of prostate cancer or breast cancer, and the like.

(C) Effects

[1] MAB therapy becomes possible.
[2] Synergistic effects.
[3] Relieving side effects.
[4] As a result of size reduction of myoma or tumor due to the concomitant therapy, a surgical operation or an irradiation therapy can be performed more readily.
[5] Cancer therapy according to a blood level of soluble HER2 becomes possible.

(15-2) Other antibodies

(A) Examples

131I-chTNT-1/B (Peregrine Pharm), MAB-bispecific-HER2 (Medarex), Cetuximab, Bevacizumaba (Genentech), SK-1 MAb (Hygeia), PE-40-MAb (BR96, BMS), J-591, Anti-EGFR MAb, and the like.

(B) Target diseases

Prostate cancer, breast cancer, endometriosis, endometriosis, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer or breast cancer, metastasis of prostate cancer or breast cancer, and the like.

(C) Effects

[1] MAB therapy becomes possible.
[2] Synergistic effects.
[3] Relieving side effects.
[4] As a result of size reduction of myoma or tumor due to the concomitant therapy, a surgical operation or an irradiation therapy can be performed more readily.
[5] Cancer therapy according to a blood level of soluble HER2 becomes possible.

(15-3) Other vaccines and immune enhancers

(A) Examples

MAK cells + bispecific antibody (IDM SA), IL-2 + cytokine (CEL-SCI), Cancer vaccine (Onyvax), Heat-killed M. vaccae (SR Pharma), GBC-590 (SafeScience), Cancer vaccine (ImmunoTherapy), ADJUVAX-100-A (Jenner), IPS-21 (Biostar), Mycobacterium Cell wall Complex, GPI-0100 (Galenica Pharm), Globo-H-KLM vaccine, BPH therapy (Zonagen), Anti-PSM vaccine (M&E Biothech), Prostate cancer vaccine (Corxia), and the like.

(B) Target diseases

Prostate cancer, breast cancer, prostatic hypertrophy, endometriosis, endometriosis, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer or breast cancer, metastasis of prostate cancer or breast cancer, and the like.

(C) Effects

[1] MAB therapy becomes possible.
[2] Synergistic effects.
[3] Relieving side effects.
[4] As a result of size reduction of myoma or tumor due to the concomitant therapy, a surgical operation or an irradiation therapy can be performed more readily.
[5] Cancer therapy according to a blood level of soluble HER2 becomes possible.

(16) EGFR or EGFR antibodies or vaccines

(A) Examples

Cetuximab (IMC C225, ImClone Systems'), EGFR vaccine, and the like.

(B) Target diseases

Prostate cancer, breast cancer, prostatic hypertrophy, endometriosis, endometriosis, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer or breast cancer, metastasis of prostate cancer or breast cancer, and the like.

(C) Effects

[1] MAB therapy becomes possible.
[2] Synergistic effects.
[3] Relieving side effects.
[4] As a result of size reduction of myoma or tumor due to the concomitant therapy, a surgical operation or an irradiation therapy can be performed more readily.
[5] Cancer therapy according to a blood level of soluble HER2 becomes possible.

(17) T Cell differentiation modulators

(A) Examples

6,7-Dimethoxy-4-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-(1,2,4-triazol-1-ylmethyl)quinoline-3-carboxylic acid ethyl ester (JP 7-118266 A), and the like.

(C) Effects

[1] Synergistic effects.
[2] Relieving side effects.

(18) HER2 Antibodies

(A) Examples

Trastuzumab (Herceptin™), and the like.

(B) Target diseases

Prostate cancer, breast cancer, and the like.

(C) Effects

[1] Synergistic effects.
[2] Relieving side effects.
[3] As a result of size reduction of myoma or tumor due to the concomitant therapy, a surgical operation or an irradiation therapy can be performed more readily.
[4] Cancer therapy according to a blood level of soluble HER2 becomes possible.

(19) Cytokine/chemokine inhibitors

(A) Examples

(19-1) Protein preparations

(i) TNF Inhibitors

Etanercept, Infliximab, D2E7, CDP-571, PASSTNF-α, soluble TNF receptor, TNF-α-binding protein, anti-TNF-α antibody, DPC-333, sTNF-R1, TBP-1, CDP-870, PASS-TNF-α, ISIS-104838, and the like.

(ii) Interleukin-1 inhibitors

Anakinra (interleukin-1 receptor antagonist), soluble interleukin-1 receptor, and the like.

(iii) Interleukin-6 inhibitors

MRA (anti-interleukin-6 receptor antibody), anti-interleukin-6 antibody, Sant-7 (interleukin-6 receptor antagonist), and the like.

(iv) Interleukin-10 drugs

Interleukin-10, and the like.

(v) Interleukin-12 inhibitors

Anti-interleukin-12, and the like.

(v) Drugs having both of interferon-α and γ-inhibitory and TNF-α inhibitory activities

AGT-1

(19-2) Nonprotein preparations

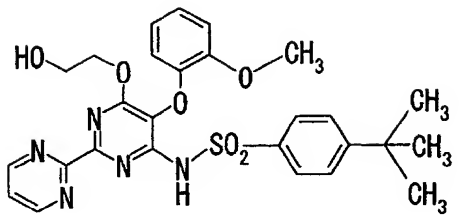
(i) CXCR4 antagonists
(ii) CCR7 antagonists
(iii) MAP kinase inhibitors
PD-98059, BRIB-796, SCIO-469, SB-281832, RWJ-67657RO-320-1195, and the like.
(iv) Gene regulators
Inhibitors of molecules involved in signal transmission such as SP-100030, NF-κ, NF-κB, IKK-1, IKK-2, AP-1, and the like.
(v) Cytokine production inhibitors
T-614, SR-31747, Sonatimod, and the like.
(vi) TNF-α converting agent inhibitors
(vii) Interleukin-1β conversion enzyme inhibitors
HMR3480/VX-740, and the like.
(viii) Interleukin-6 antagonists
SANT-7, and the like.
(ix) Interleukin-8 inhibitors
IL-8 Antagonists, CXCR1 & CXCR2 antagonists, and the like.
(x) Chemokine antagonists
MCP-1 Antagonists, and the like.
(xi) Interleukin-2 receptor antagonists
Denileukin diftitox, and the like.
(xii) Therapeutic vaccines
TNF-α vaccine, and the like.
(xiii) Gene therapeutic drugs
Interleukin-4, interleukin-10, soluble interleukin-1 receptor, soluble TNF-α receptor, a gene therapeutic drug for the purpose of promoting expression of a gene having an anti-inflammatory activity such as HSV-tk, and the like.
(xiv) Antisense compounds
ISIS-104838, and the like.

(B) Target diseases
Prostate cancer, breast cancer, metastasis of prostate cancer or breast cancer, and the like.
(C) Effects

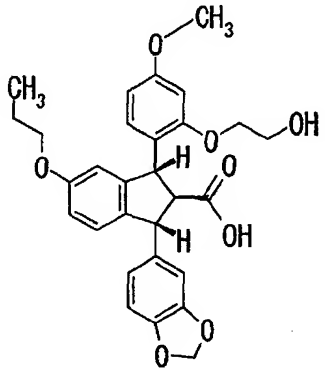
[1] Synergistic effects.
[2] Relieving side effects.
[3] As a result of size reduction of myoma or tumor due to the concomitant therapy, a surgical operation or an irradiation therapy can be performed more readily.
[4] Cancer therapy according to a blood level of soluble HER2 becomes possible.

(20) Endothelin receptor antagonists

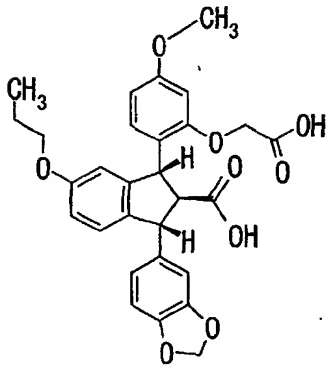
(A) Examples
Atrasentan; YM-598; TA-0201;



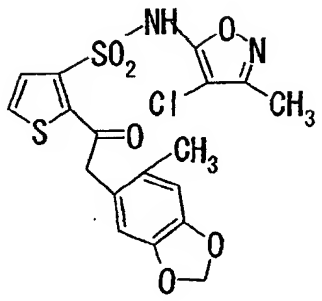
(Bosentan);



(SB-217242);



(SB-209670);



(TBC-11251);

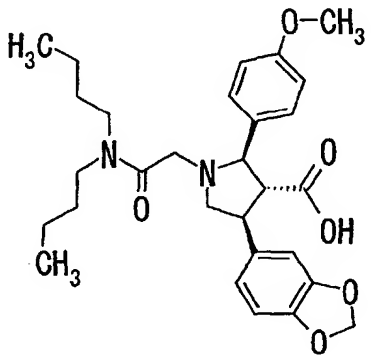
Cyclo [-Asp-Pro-Val-Leu-Trp-]

(BQ-123);

a peptide represented by the formula:

Cyclo[-D-Asp-Asp(R1)-Asp-D-Thg(2)-Leu-D-Trp-]

wherein Asp(R1) is an aspartic acid β-4-phenylpiperazinamide residue, Thg(2) is a 2-thienylglycine residue, or its disodium salt;



(ABT-627) as well as compounds described in LU-135252, J-104132, ABT-546, EP 436189 A, EP 457195 A, EP 460679 A, EP 496452 A, EP 499266 A, EP 510526 A, EP 526642 A, EP 526708 A, EP 528312 A, EP 552489 A, EP 555537 A, EP 626174 A, EP 655463 A, EP7 14909 A, EP 815870 A, WO91/13089, WO92/12991, WO92/20706, WO93/10144, WO93/13218, WO93/17701, WO93/21219, JP 4-244097 A, JP 4-261198 A, JP 4-283600 A, JP 4-288099 A, JP 5-178890 A, JP 5-279390 A or JP 7-173161 A.

(B) Target diseases

Prostate cancer, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer, and the like.

(C) Effects

[1] Synergistic effects.

[2] Relieving side effects.

(21) Angiotensine II receptor antagonists

(A) Examples

Losartan potassium, Valsartan, Candesartan silexetil, Telmisartan, Olmesartan, Irbesartan, Eprosartan, and the like.

(B) Target diseases

Prostate cancer, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer, and the like.

(C) Effects

[1] Synergistic effects.

[2] Relieving side effects.

(22) Cyclooxygenase inhibitors (COX-I-selective inhibitors, COX-II-selective inhibitors, and the like)

(A) Examples

Salicylic acid derivatives (e.g., Celecoxib, Rofecoxib, Aspirin), MK-663, Valdecoxib, Parecoxib, Etoricoxib, lumiracoxib, SC-57666, Tiracoxib, S-2474, Diclofenac, Indometacin, Loxoprofen, CS-502, CT-3, ABT-963, LAS-33826, ONO-2506, and the like.

(B) Target diseases

Prostate cancer, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer, and the like.

(C) Effects

[1] Synergistic effects.

[2] Relieving side effects.

(23) Bombesin receptor antagonists, anti-bombesin receptor antibodies, ligand-toxin complexes, and the like

(B) Target diseases

Prostate cancer, breast cancer, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer or breast cancer, and the like.

(C) Effects

[1] Synergistic effects.

[2] Relieving side effects.

(24) Calcitonin receptor antagonists, anti-calcitonin receptor antibodies, ligand-toxin complexes, and the like

(B) Target diseases

Prostate cancer, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer, and the like.

(C) Effects

[1] Synergistic effects.

[2] Relieving side effects.

(25) Somatostatin receptor antagonists, anti-somatostatin receptor antibodies, ligand-toxin complexes, and the like

(B) Target diseases

Prostate cancer, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer and the like.

(C) Effects

[1] Synergistic effects.

[2] Relieving side effects.

(26) Serotonin receptor antagonists, anti-serotonin receptor antibodies, ligand-toxin complexes, and the like

(A) Examples

Agomelatin (S-20098), DU-125530, NAD-299, CP-448187, and the like.

(B) Target diseases

Prostate cancer, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer, and the like.

(C) Effects

[1] Synergistic effects.
[2] Relieving side effects.

(27) GHRH receptor antagonists, anti-GHRH receptor antibodies, ligand-toxin complexes, and the like

(A) Examples
CMPD-1, and the like.
(B) Target diseases
Prostate cancer, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer, and the like.
(C) Effects

[1] Synergistic effects.
[2] Relieving side effects.

(28) Androgen receptor expression stimulators
IL-6, and the like.

(B) Target diseases
Prostate cancer, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer, and the like.
(C) Effects

[1] Synergistic effects.
[2] Relieving side effects.

(29) Androgen receptor expression inhibitors

(B) Target diseases
Prostate cancer, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer, and the like.
(C) Effects

[1] Synergistic effects.
[2] Relieving side effects.

(30) Cytokine effect modulators

(B) Target diseases
Endometriosis, hysteromyoma, and the like.
(C) Effects

[1] Synergistic effects.
[2] Relieving side effects.

(31) Cell growth factor inhibitors

(B) Target diseases
Endometriosis, hysteromyoma, and the like.
(C) Effects

[1] Synergistic effects.
[2] Relieving side effects.

(32) Others

[0051] Angiogenesis inhibitors, CNS drugs [e.g., anxiolytic drugs, sleep-inducing drugs, schizophrenia treating drugs, Parkinson's disease treating drugs, anti-dementia drugs (e.g., brain circulation improving drugs, brain metabolism activator)], hypotensors, diabetes treating drugs, anti-hyperlipidemic drugs, nutrients (e.g., vitamin preparations, etc.), digestion and absorption promoting agents, digestants, and the like.

[0052] Add-Back therapy means a treatment method for preventing or treating a disease whose exacerbation de-

pends on a sex hormone (testosterone, estrogen, estradiol, and the like) by administration of a GnRH agonist to reduce a blood level of the hormone, wherein supplemental administration of the hormone or a drug equivalent thereto (hereinafter sometimes referred to as an Add-Back agent) is performed in order to relieving side effects (e.g., lowering of the amount of salts in bone) due to lowering of the hormone, i.e., the pharmacological efficacy. Preferably, oral administration is mainly employed for an Add-Back agent.

[0053] MAB therapy means a treatment method, wherein all androgenic actions in a prostate are blocked. For example, the therapy employs a surgical castration or a GnRH agonist for blocking a testes-derived androgenic action together with an anti-androgen for blocking an adrenal-derived androgenic action.

[0054] When using a GnRH agonist in combination with a concomitant drug, the administration periods of the GnRH agonist and the concomitant drug are not particularly limited, and the GnRH agonist or its pharmaceutical preparation and the concomitant drug or its pharmaceutical preparation can be administered to a subject simultaneously or at certain time intervals. The dose of a concomitant drug may be in accordance with a clinically employed dose, and selected appropriately depending on the subject, route, disease, combination, and the like.

[0055] The administration mode of the pharmaceutical composition which is a combination of the GnRH agonist and a concomitant drug (hereinafter sometimes abbreviated as the combination drug of the present invention) is not particularly limited in so far as the GnRH agonist and the concomitant drug are combined at the time of administration. Examples of such an administration mode include (1) administration of a single preparation obtained by formulating the GnRH agonist and a concomitant drug into a pharmaceutical composition simultaneously, (2) simultaneous administration via the same route of two different preparations obtained by formulating the GnRH agonist and a concomitant drug into separate pharmaceutical compositions, (3) administration via the same route of two different preparations obtained by formulating the GnRH agonist and a concomitant drug into separate pharmaceutical compositions at certain time intervals, (4) simultaneous administration via different routes of two different preparations obtained by formulating the GnRH agonist and a concomitant drug into separate pharmaceutical compositions (5) administration via different routes of two different preparations obtained by formulating the GnRH agonist and a concomitant drug into separate pharmaceutical compositions (for example, the GnRH agonist followed by a concomitant drug, and vice versa), and the like.

[0056] The above concomitant drug-containing preparation has low toxicity, and thus a concomitant drug can be safely administered orally or parenterally (e.g., topically, rectally, intravenously) by mixing it with a pharmacologically acceptable carrier in accordance with a method known per se to form a pharmaceutical preparation, for example, tablets (including sugar-coated and film-coated tablets), powders, granules, capsules (including soft capsules), solutions, injectable preparations, suppositories, sustained release preparations, and the like. An injectable preparation may be administered intravenously, intramuscularly, subcutaneously, into an organ, or directly into a lesion.

[0057] As the pharmacologically acceptable carrier which may be employed for producing the preparation, there are various organic and inorganic carrier materials conventionally employed as pharmaceutical materials and examples thereof include excipients, lubricants, binders and disintegrants for solid preparations, solvents, dissolution aids, suspending agents, isotonicities, buffers and soothing agents for liquid preparations. Further, if necessary, other additives such as conventional preservatives, antioxidants, colorants, sweeteners, adsorbents, wetting agents, etc. may also be used in suitable amounts.

[0058] Examples of the excipients include lactose, sugar, D-mannitol, starch, corn starch, crystalline cellulose, light silicic anhydride, and the like.

[0059] Examples of the lubricants include magnesium stearate, calcium stearate, talc, colloidal silica, and the like.

[0060] Examples of the binders include crystalline cellulose, sugar, D-mannitol, dextrin, hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, starch, sucrose, gelatin, methyl cellulose, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, and the like.

[0061] Examples of the disintegrants include starch, carboxymethylcellulose, calcium carboxymethylcellulose, sodium carboxymethyl starch, L-hydroxypropyl cellulose, and the like.

[0062] Examples of the solvents include injectable water, alcohol, propylene glycol, macrogol, sesame oil, corn oil, olive oil, and the like.

[0063] Examples of the dissolution aids include polyethylene glycol, propylene glycol, D-mannitol, benzyl benzoate, ethanol, trisaminomethane, cholesterol, triethanolamine, sodium carbonate, sodium citrate, and the like.

[0064] Examples of the suspending agents include surfactants such as stearyl triethanolamine, sodium lauryl sulfate, laurylaminopropionic acid, lecithin, benzalkonium chloride, benzethonium chloride, glycerin monostearate, and the like; hydrophilic polymers such as polyvinyl alcohol, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, methyl cellulose, hydroxymethyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose and the like.

[0065] Examples of the isotonicities include glucose, D-sorbitol, sodium chloride, glycerin, D-mannitol, and the like.

[0066] Examples of the buffers include buffer solutions of a phosphate, acetate, carbonate, citrate, and the like.

[0067] Examples of the soothing agents include benzyl alcohol, and the like.

[0068] Examples of the preservatives include ethyl p-oxybenzoate, chlorobutanol, benzyl alcohol, phenethyl alcohol,

dehydroacetic acid, sorbic acid, and the like.

[0069] Examples of the antioxidants include sulfites, ascorbic acid, α-tocopherol, and the like.

[0070] The amount of a concomitant drug in the pharmaceutical preparation containing the concomitant drug varies depending on the dosage form, but is usually about 0.01 to 100% by weight, preferably about 0.1 to 50% by weight, more preferably about 0.5 to 20% by weight based on the entire preparation.

[0071] In case where a concomitant drug is formulated into the preparation containing the above GnRH agonist, the same amount thereof can be incorporated in the preparation.

[0072] The amount of additives such as a carrier, etc. contained in the pharmaceutical preparation containing a concomitant drug varies depending on the dosage form, but is usually about 1 to 99.99% by weight, preferably about 10 to 90% by weight based on the entire preparation.

[0073] These preparations can be produced according to a method known per se which is usually employed in a pharmaceutical process.

[0074] For example, a concomitant drug can be formulated into an injectable preparation in the form of an aqueous injectable preparation together with a dispersant (e.g. Tween 80 (ATLAS POWDER COMPANY, USA), HCO60 (NIKKO CHEMICALS CO., LTD.), polyethylene glycol, carboxymethylcellulose, sodium alginate, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, dextrin, etc.), a stabilizer (e.g., ascorbic acid, sodium pyrosulfite, etc.), a surfactant (e.g., polysorbate 80, macrogol. etc.), a solubilizing agent (e.g., glycerin, ethanol, etc.), a buffer (e.g., phosphoric acid or its alkaline metal salt, citric acid or its alkaline metal salt, etc.), an isotonicity (e.g., sodium chloride, potassium chloride, mannitol, sorbitol, glucose, etc.), a pH adjuster (e.g., hydrochloric acid, sodium hydroxide, etc.), a preservative (e.g., ethyl p-oxybenzoate, benzoic acid, methylparabene, propylparabene, benzyl alcohol, etc.), a solubilizer (e.g., concentrated glycerin, meglumine, etc.), a solubilizing aid (e.g., propylene glycol, sugar, etc.), a soothing agent (e.g., glucose, benzyl alcohol, etc.), or in the form of an oily injectable preparation obtained by dissolving, suspending or emulsifying in a vegetable oil such as olive oil, sesame oil, cottonseed oil and corn oil, and in a solubilizing aid such as propylene glycol.

[0075] In order to obtain a preparation for oral administration, according to a method known per se, for example, a concomitant drug is admixed with an excipient (e.g., lactose, sugar, starch, etc.), a disintegrant (e.g., starch, calcium carbonate, etc.), a binder (e.g., starch, gum arabic, carboxymethylcellulose, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, hydroxypropyl cellulose, etc.) or a lubricant (e.g., talc, magnesium stearate, polyethylene glycol 6000, etc.), the mixture is compression-molded and, if necessary, the molded product is subjected to coating for taste masking, coating with an enteric coat or coating for sustained release properties by means of a method known per se to obtained the desired preparation. Examples of the coating agent to be used include hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, ethyl cellulose, hydroxymethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, polyoxyehtylene glycol, Tween 80, Pluronic F68, cellulose acetate phthalate, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose phthalate, hydroxymethyl cellulose acetate succinate, Eudragit (Rohm, German, methacrylic/acrylic acid copolymer), a colorant (e.g., iron oxide red, titanium dioxide), etc. The preparation for oral administration may be a rapid release preparation or a sustained release preparation.

[0076] In order to obtain, for example, a suppository, according to a method known per se, a concomitant drug can be formulated into an oily or aqueous solid, semi-solid or liquid suppository. Examples of an oily base to be used in the above composition include higher fatty acid glycerides [e.g., cocoa butter, WITEPSOL (DYNAMIT NOBEL, Germany). etc.], medium fatty acids [e.g., MIGLYOL (DYNAMIT NOBEL, Germany), etc.], or vegetable oils (e.g., sesame oil, soybean oil, cottonseed oil, etc.). Examples of an aqueous base to be used include polyethylene glycols and propylene glycol, and examples of an aqueous gel base to be used include natural gums, cellulose derivatives, vinyl polymers acrylate polymers, and the like.

[0077] As the above sustained release preparation, there is, for example, a sustained release microcapsule.

[0078] The sustained release microcapsule can be obtained by a method known per se. However, preferably, the sustained release preparation is prepared as shown in [2] hereinafter and administered.

[0079] Hereinafter, [1] an injectable preparation a concomitant drug and its production, [2] a sustained release or rapid release preparation of a concomitant drug and its production and [3] a sublingual tablet, buccal or oral rapid disintegration preparation of a concomitant drug and its production will be specifically illustrated.

[1] Injectable preparation and its production

[0080] Preferably, the injectable preparation comprises a concomitant drug dissolved in water. The preparation may further contain a benzoate and/or a salicylate.

[0081] The injectable preparation is obtained by dissolving a concomitant drug and, optionally, a benzoate and/or a salicylate in water.

[0082] Examples of the salt of the above benzoic acid and salicylic acid include those with alkali metals such as sodium and potassium, alkaline earth metals such as calcium and magnesium, an ammonium salt, a meglumine salt as well as those with organic acids such as trometamol, and the like.

[0083] The concentration of a concomitant drug in the injectable preparation is 0.5 to 50 w/v %, preferably about 3

to 20 w/v %. Preferably, the concentration of a benzoate and/or a salicylate is 0.5 to 50 w/v %, preferably 3 to 20 w/v %.

[0084] The preparation may further contain appropriate additives conventionally employed in an injectable preparation, for example, a stabilizer (ascorbic acid, sodium pyrosulfite, and the like), a surfactant (polysorbate 80, macrogol, and the like), a solubilizing agent (glycerin, ethanol, and the like), a buffer (phosphoric acid and its alkali metal salt, citric acid and its alkali metal salt, and the like), an isotonicity (sodium chloride, potassium chloride, and the like), a dispersing agent (hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, dextrin), a pH adjuster (hydrochloric acid, sodium hydroxide, and the like), a preservative (ethyl p-oxybenzoate, benzoic acid, and the like), a solubilizer (concentrated glycerin, meglumine, and the like), a solubilizing aid (propylene glycol, sugar. and the like), a soothing agent (glucose, benzyl alcohol, and the like), and the like. Each of these additives is formulated into the injectable preparation in an amount conventionally employed.

[0085] The pH of the injectable preparation is adjusted to 2 to 12, preferably 2.5 to 8.0 with a pH adjuster.

[0086] The injectable preparation can be obtained by dissolving the GnRH antagonist or a concomitant, optionally, a benzoate and/or salicylate, and if necessary the above additives in water. These components may be dissolved in any order as appropriate according to the same manner as a conventional production of an injectable preparation.

[0087] An injectable aqueous solution is preferably warmed, and can be used in the injectable preparation by filter sterilization or autoclave sterilization as that in a conventional production of an injectable preparation.

[0088] The injectable aqueous solution is preferably autoclaved at 100 to 121°C for 5 to 30 minutes.

[0089] An antibacterial activity may be imparted to the preparation so that it can be administered several times in divided doses.

[2] Sustained release or rapid release preparation and its production

[0090] Preferably, the sustained release preparation comprises a core containing a concomitant drug, optionally coated with a coating agent such as a water-insoluble material, a swelling polymer, etc. For example, the sustained release for oral administration which is administered once a day is preferred.

[0091] Examples of the water-insoluble material to be used as the coating agent include cellulose ethers such as ethyl cellulose, butyl cellulose, etc.; cellulose esters such as cellulose acetate, cellulose propionate, etc.; polyvinyl esters such as polyvinyl acetate, polyvinyl butyrate, etc.; acrylate polymers such as acrylic acid/methacrylic acid copolymer, methyl methacrylate copolymer, ethoxyethyl methacrylate/cinnamoethyl methacrylate/aminoalkyl methacrylate copolymer, polyacrylic acid, polymethacrylic acid, methacrylic acid alkyl amide copolymer, poly(methyl methacrylate), polymethacryl amide, aminoalkyl methacrylate copolymer, poly(methacrylic anhydride), glycidyl methacrylate copolymer, especially, a series of Eudragit (Rohm & Pharma) such as Eudragit RS-100, RL-100, RS-30D, RL-30D, RL-PO, RS-PO (ethyl acrylate/methyl methacrylate/chlorotrimethyl methacrylate/ethyl ammonium copolymer) and Eudragit NE-30D (methyl methacrylate/ethyl acrylate copolymer), etc.; hydrogenated oils such as hydrogenated castor oil (e.g., LUBRI WAX (FREUND INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD.)), etc.; waxes such as carnauba wax, fatty acid glycerin ester, paraffin, etc.; polyglycerin fatty acid esters; and the like.

[0092] As the swelling polymer, a polymer having an acidic cleavable group and exhibiting a pH-dependent swelling is preferred, and an acidic cleavable group-bearing polymer which undergoes a less swelling at an acidic pH such as in stomach but is swollen extensively at a neutral pH such as in small and large intestines is preferred.

[0093] As such a polymer having an acidic cleavable group and exhibiting a pH-dependent swelling, there are, for example, crosslinked polyacrylic acid polymers such as Carbomers 934P, 940, 941, 974P, 980, 1342 and the like, Polycarbophil and Calcium Polycarbophil (BF GOODRICH), HIGHVIS Wakos 103, 104, 105 and 304 (Wako Pure Chemical Industries, Ltd.), and the like.

[0094] The coating agent used in a sustained release preparation may further contain a hydrophilic material.

[0095] Examples of the hydrophilic material include polysaccharides which may have sulfate groups such as pullulan, dextrin and alkali metal alginates, etc.; polysaccharides having hydroxyalkyl groups or a carboxyalkyl groups such as hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose and sodium carboxymethylcellulose, etc.; methyl cellulose; polyvinyl pyrrolidone; polyvinyl alcohol; polyethylene glycol; and the like.

[0096] The water-insoluble material content in the coating of the sustained release preparation is about 30 to about 90% (w/w), preferably about 35 to about 80% (w/w), more preferably about 40 to about 75% (w/w), and the swelling polymer content is about 3 to about 30% (w/w), preferably about 3 to about 15% (w/w). The coating may further contain the hydrophilic material and, in such a case, its content in the coating is about 50% (w/w) or less, preferably about 5 to about 40% (w/w), more preferably about 5 to about 35% (w/w). As used herein, the % (w/w) represents a % by weight based on a coating composition which is the remainder of a coating solution after removing any solvent (e.g., water, a lower alcohol such as methanol, ethanol, etc.) therefrom.

[0097] The sustained release preparation is produced by preparing a core containing a drug as exemplified hereinafter, followed by coating the resultant core with a solution of the coating agent obtained by heat-melting the water-insoluble material or the swelling polymer or by dissolving or dispersing such material in a solvent.

I. Preparation of drug-containing core

[0098] The form of a core containing drug and coated with a coating agent (hereinafter sometimes simply referred to as a core) is not specifically limited. However, preferably, it is formed in the form of particles such as granules or fine particles.

[0099] In case that a core is granules or fine particles, it has an average particle size of, preferably, about 150 to 2,000 μm, more preferably about 500 to 1,400 μm.

[0100] The core can be prepared by a conventional method. For example, a drug is admixed with suitable excipient, binder, disintegrant, lubricant, stabilizer, and the like, and then subjected to wet extrusion granulation, fluidized bed granulation, etc. to prepare the core.

[0101] The drug content in the core is about 0.5 to about 95% (w/w), preferably about 5.0 to about 80% (w/w), more preferably about 30 to about 70% (w/w).

[0102] Examples of the excipient contained in the core include saccharides such as sucrose, lactose, mannitol, glucose, etc., starch, crystalline cellulose, calcium phosphate, corn starch, and the like. Among them, crystalline cellulose and corn starch are preferred.

[0103] Examples of the binder include polyvinyl alcohol, hydroxypropyl cellulose, polyethylene glycol, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, Pluronic F68, gum arabic, gelatin, starch, and the like. Examples of the disintegrant include calcium carboxymethylcellulose (ECG505), sodium croscarmellose (Ac-Di-Sol), crosslinked polyvinyl pyrrolidone (crospovidone) a low-substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose (L-HPS), and the like. Among them, hydroxypropyl cellulose, polyvinyl pyrrolidone and a low-substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose are preferred. Examples of the lubricant and the anticoagulant include talc, magnesium stearate and its inorganic salts, and examples of the lubricant include polyethylene glycol and the like. Examples of the stabilizer include acids such as tartaric acid, citric acid, succinic acid, fumaric acid, maleic acid, etc.

[0104] In addition to the above method, the core can also be prepared by a drum granulation method wherein a drug or a mixture thereof with an excipient, a lubricant, etc. is added slowly to inert carrier particles as seeds for the core with spraying a binder dissolved in a suitable solvent such as water, a lower alcohol (e.g., methanol, ethanol, etc.), etc. as well as a pan coating method, a fluidized bed coating method and a melting granulation method. Examples of the inert carrier particles to be used include those prepared from sugar, lactose, starch, crystalline cellulose or waxes, and the average particle size thereof is preferably about 100 μm to about 1,500 μm.

[0105] In order to separate the drug contained in the core from the coating agent, the surface of the core may be covered with a protective material. As such a protective material, the above hydrophilic material and water-insoluble material can be used. The preferred protective material to be used is polyethylene glycol or polysaccharides having hydroxyalkyl groups or carboxyalkyl groups, more preferably, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose and hydroxypropyl cellulose. The protective material may contain, as a stabilizer, an acid such as tartaric acid, citric acid, succinic acid, fumaric acid, maleic acid, etc. as well as a lubricant such as talc. In case of using the protective material, its coating build-up is about 1 to about 15% (w/w), preferably about 1 to about 10% (w/w), more preferably about 2 to about 8% (w/w) to the core.

[0106] The protective material can be coated by a conventional coating method. Specifically, it can be coated, for example, by spraying the protective material onto the core by a fluidized bed coating method, a pan coating method, etc.

II. Coating of core with coating agent

[0107] The core obtained in the above I is coated with a solution of the containing agent obtained by heat-melting the water-insoluble material or the pH-dependent swelling polymer, and the hydrophilic material or by dissolving or dispersing such material in a solvent to prepare the sustained release preparation.

[0108] As a method for coating the core with a solution of the coating agent, there is, for example, spray coating.

[0109] The composition ratio between the water-insoluble material, and the swelling polymer or the hydrophilic material in the solution of coating agent may be selected appropriately so that respective contents in the coating become those specified above.

[0110] The coating build-up of the coating agent is about 1 to about 90% (w/w) based on the core (excluding that of the protective material), preferably about 5 to about 50% (w/w), more preferably about 5 to about 35% (w/w).

[0111] The solvent for the solution of coating agent is water or an organic solvent alone, or a mixed solvent thereof. In case of using the mixed solvent, the mixing ratio between water and an organic solvent (water/organic solvent: weight ratio) may vary from 1 to 100%, and is preferably 1 to about 30%. While the organic solvent is not specifically limited in so far as it can dissolve the water-insoluble material, examples thereof to be used include a lower alcohol such as methyl alcohol, ethyl alcohol, isopropyl alcohol, n-butyl alcohol, etc.; a lower alkanone such as acetone, etc.; acetonitrile; chloroform; methylene chloride; and the like. Among them, a lower alcohol is preferred, with ethyl alcohol and isopropyl alcohol being especially preferred. Water and a mixed solvent of water and an organic solvent are pref-

erably used as a solvents for the coating agent. At this time, if necessary, an acid such as tartaric acid, citric acid, succinic acid, fumaric acid and maleic acid may be added to the solution of coating agent in order to stabilize the solution of coating agent.

[0112] The spray coating can be performed by a conventional coating method and, specifically, the core is sprayed with the solution of coating agent by a fluidized bed coating method, a pan coating method, etc. At this time, if necessary, a lubricant such as talc, titanium oxide, magnesium stearate, calcium stearate, light silicic anhydride, etc., and a plasticizer such as glycerin fatty ester, hardened castor oil, triethyl citrate, cetyl alcohol, stearyl alcohol, etc. may be added.

[0113] After coating with the coating agent, if necessary, an antistatic agent such as talc may be admixed.

[0114] The rapid release preparation may be in the form of a liquid (solution, suspension, emulsion, etc.) or a solid (particles, pill, tablet, etc.). While a preparation for oral administration and a preparation for parenteral administration such as an injectable preparation can be used, a preparation for oral administration is preferred.

[0115] Usually, the rapid release preparation may contain carriers, additives and excipients (hereinafter sometimes abbreviated as excipients) which are conventionally employed in the pharmaceutical field, in addition to the drug which is the active component. The excipient to be used are not specifically limited is so far it is a conventional excipient used in'the pharmaceutical field. Examples of the excipient for the solid preparation for oral administration include lactose, starch, corn starch, crystalline cellulose (Asahi Kasei, Avicel PH101, and the like), powdered sugar, granulated sugar, mannitol, light silicic anhydride, magnesium carbonate, calcium carbonate, L-cysteine, and the like, with corn starch and mannitol being preferred. These excipients can be used alone or in combination thereof. The amount of then excipient is, for example, about 4.5 to about 99.4 w/w %, preferably about 20 to about 98.5 w/w %, more preferably about 30 to about 97 w/w % based on the total amount of the rapid release preparation.

[0116] The drug content in the rapid release preparation can be appropriately selected from the range of about 0.5 to about 95%, preferably about 1 to about 60% based on the total amount of the rapid release preparation.

[0117] In case of the rapid release solid preparation for oral administration, usually, it contains a disintegrant in addition to the above components. Examples of the disintegrant to be used include calcium carboxymethylcellulose (GOTOKUYAKUHIN, ECG505), sodium croscarmellose (for example, Asahi Kasei, Ac-Di-Sol), crospovidone (for example, BASF, KOLLIDON CL), low-substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose (SHIN-ETSU CHEMICAL CO., LTD.), carboxymethyl starch (MATSUTANI CHEMICAL INDUSTRY CO., LTD.), sodium carboxymethyl starch (KIMURASANGYO, EXPLOTAB), partial α starch (Asahi Kasei, PCS), and the like. The disintegrant to be used is a material which can disintegrate particles, for example, by contacting with water to cause water absorption or swelling; forming channels between a core-forming active component and an excipient; or the like. These disintegrants can be used alone or in combination thereof other. While the amount of a disintegrant to be incorporated may be appropriately selected according to the kind and amount of the drug to be used, the pharmaceutical design for desired release properties, etc., the content is, for example, about 0.05 to about 30 w/w %, preferably about 0.5 to about 15 w/w % based on the total amount of the rapid release preparation.

[0118] When the rapid release preparation is a solid preparation for oral administration, in addition to the above composition, the preparation may further contain conventional additives used in a solid preparation. Examples of these additives to be added include binders (for example, sucrose, gelatin, powdery gum arabic, methyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, polyvinylpyrrolidone, pullulan, dextrin, etc.), lubricants (for example, polyethylene glycol, magnesium stearate, talc, light silicic anhydride (for example, aerosil (NIPPON AEROSIL)), surfactants (for example, anionic surfactants such as sodium alkyl sulfate, etc., nonionic surfactants such as polyoxyethylene fatty ester and polyoxyethylene sorbitan fatty ester, polyoxyethylene castor oil derivatives, etc.), colorants (for example, tar colors, caramel, blood red, titanium oxide, ribofravins), and, if necessary, corrigents (for example, sweetener, flavor, etc.), adsorbents, preservatives, wetting agents, antistatic agents, and the like. As a stabilizer, an organic acid such as tartaric acid, citric acid, succinic acid, fumaric acid, etc. may be added.

[0119] Examples of the above binder to be used include preferably hydroxypropyl cellulose, polyethylene glycol, polyvinylpyrrolidone, etc.

[0120] The rapid release preparation can be prepared by mixing the above components and, if necessary, further kneading and then molding according to a conventional pharmaceutical technology. The above mixing can be performed by a conventional method, such as mixing and kneading. Specifically, when the rapid release preparation is prepared in the formed of particles, the preparation can be prepared by mixing components with a vertical granulator, a universal kneader (HATAKE TEKKOSHO), a fluidized bed granulator FD-5S (POWREX CORPORATION), and the like, followed by granulation by wet extrusion granulation, fluidized bed granulation, etc. according to the same method as that for preparing the above core of the sustained release preparation.

[0121] The rapid release preparation and the sustained release preparation thus obtained as such or, after appropriately formulating into different preparations together with an excipient, etc. according to a conventional method, a combination thereof may be administration simultaneously or at certain intervals. Alternatively, both preparations as such or together with an excipient, etc. may be formulated into a single preparation for oral administration (e.g., granules, fine particles, tablets, capsules, etc.). In addition, granules or fine particles of both preparations may be prepared,

followed by filling in a single capsule to obtain the preparation for oral administration.

[3] Sublingual tablet, buccal or oral rapid disintegration preparation and its production

[0122] The sublingual tablet, buccal or oral rapid disintegration preparation may be a solid preparation such as a tablet, etc., or may be a oral mucosa plaster (film).

[0123] As the sublingual tablet, buccal or oral rapid disintegration preparation is preferably a preparation containing a concomitant drug together with an excipient. Further, it may be contain auxiliary agents such as a lubricant, an isotonicity, a hydrophilic carrier, a water-dispersible polymer, a stabilizer, etc. In order to facilitate the absorption and to enhance the bioavailability, the preparation may further contain β-cyclodextrin or β-cyclodextrin derivatives (e.g., hydroxypropyl-β-cyclodextrin, etc.).

[0124] Examples of the above excipient include lactose, sugar, D-mannitol, starch, crystalline cellulose, light silicic anhydride, and the like. As the lubricant, there are, for example, magnesium stearate, calcium stearate, talc, colloidal silica, and the like, with magnesium stearate and colloidal silica being especially preferred. As the isotonicity, there are, for example, sodium chloride, glucose, fructose, mannitol, sorbitol, lactose, saccharose, glycerin, urea, and the like, with mannitol being especially preferred. Examples of the hydrophilic carrier include swelling hydrophilic carriers such as crystalline cellulose, ethyl cellulose, crosslinked polyvinyl pyrrolidone, light silicic anhydride, silicic acid, dicalcium phosphate, calcium carbonate, and the like, with crystalline cellulose (e.g., microcrystalline cellulose) being especially preferred. Examples of the water-dispersible polymer include gums (e.g., tragacanth gum, acacia gum, guar gum), alginates (e.g., sodium alginate), cellulose derivatives (e.g., methyl cellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxymethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose), gelatin, water-soluble starch, polyacrylic acid (e.g., carbomer), polymethacrylic acid, polyvinyl alcohol, polyethylene glycol, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, polycarbophil, ascorbate palmitate salt, and the like, with hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, polyacrylic acid, alginates, gelatin, carboxymethylcellulose, polyvinylpyrrolidone and polyethylene glycol being preferred. Hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose is especially preferred. As the stabilizer, there are, for example, cysteine, thiosorbitol, tartatic acid, citric acid, sodium carbonate, ascrobic acid, glycine, sodium sulfite, etc., with citric acid and ascorbic acid being especially preferred.

[0125] The sublingual tablet, buccal or oral rapid disintegration preparation can be produced by mixing a concomitant drug and an excipient according to a method known per se. Optionally, the above auxiliary agents such as a lubricant, an isotonicity, a hydrophilic carrier, a water-dispersible polymer, a stabilizer, a colorant, a sweetener, a preservative, etc. may also be incorporated. After mixing the above components simultaneously or at certain time intervals, the mixture is compression-molded to obtain the sublingual tablet, buccal or oral rapid disintegration preparation. If necessary, in order to obtain suitable hardness, a solvent such as water and alcohol may be used for wetting the mixture prior to or after formation of tables, followed by molding and drying to obtain the preparation.

[0126] When the preparation is molded into the oral mucosa plaster (film), a concomitant drug and the above water-dispersible polymer (preferably, hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose), excipient, etc. are dissolved in a solvent such as water, and then the resultant solution is cast into a film. Further, additives such as plasticizers, stabilizers, antioxidants, preservatives, colorants, buffering agents, sweeteners, etc. may be added. Glycols such as polyethylene glycol, propylene glycol, etc. may be added to impart appropriate elasticity to the film, and bio-adherent polymers (e.g., polycarbophil, carbopol) may be added to enhance adhesion of the film to an oral mucosal lining. The casting can be performed by pouring the solution onto a non-adhesive surface, spreading the solution using a coating device such as a doctor blade in a uniform thickness (preferably about 10 to 1000 microns), and then drying the solution to form a film. The film thus formed is dried at room temperature or with warming, and then cut into pieces each having a desired surface area.

[0127] As the preferred oral rapid disintegration preparation, there is, for example, a rapid diffusion dosage preparation in the form of a solid network comprising a concomitant drug and a water-soluble or water-diffusible carrier which is inert to the concomitant drug. The network is obtained by sublimating a solvent from a solid composition comprising a solution of the GnRH agonist or concomitant drug in the solvent.

[0128] Preferably, the composition of the oral rapid disintegration preparation contains, in addition to a concomitant drug, a matrix-forming agent and a secondary component.

[0129] Examples of the matrix-forming agent include animal or vegetable proteins such as gelatin, dextrin, soybean, wheat and psyllium seed proteins, etc.; gummy materials such as gum arabic, guar gum, agar, xanthane gum, etc.; polysaccharides; alginates; carboxymethylcellulose; carrageenan; dextran; pectin; synthetic polymers such as polyvinylpyrrolidone, etc.; materials derived from a gelatin-gum arabic complex; and the like. Further, those also included are saccharides such as mannitol, dextrose, lactose, galactose, trehalose, etc.; cyclic saccharides such as cyclodextrin, etc.; inorganic salts such as sodium phosphate, sodium chloride, aluminum silicate, etc.; amino acids having 2 to 12 carbon atoms such as glycine, L-alanine, L-aspartic acid, L-glutamic acid, L-hydroxyproline, L-isoleucine, L-leucine, L-phenylalanine, etc.

[0130] One or more matrix-forming agents can be introduced into a solution or suspension before solidification. Such

a matrix-forming agent may be present in addition to a surfactant, or may be present in the absence of a surfactant. The matrix-forming agent serves not only to form a matrix itself, but also to aid in maintaining the diffusion state of a concomitant drug in the solution or suspension.

[0131] The composition contains the secondary component such as preservatives, antioxidants, surfactants, thickening agents, colorants, pH adjusters, flavors, sweeteners or taste masking agents, and the like. Examples of the suitable colorant include red, black and yellow iron oxides, FD&C dyes available from Ellis & Everard such as FD&C Blue No.2 and FD&C Red No.40, and the like. Examples of the suitable flavor include mint, raspberry, licorice, orange, lemon, grape fruit, caramel, vanilla, cherry and grape flavor as well as a combination thereof. Examples of the suitable pH adjuster include citric acid, tartaric acid, phosphoric acid, hydrochloric acid and maleic acid. Examples of the suitable sweetener include aspartame, acesulfame K, thaumatine, etc. Examples of the suitable taste masking agent include sodium bicarbonate, ion exchange resins, cyclodextrin inclusion compounds, adsorbents and microencapsulated apomorphine.

[0132] Usually, the preparation contains a concomitant drug in an amount of about 0.1 to about 50% by weight, preferably about 0.1 to about 30% by weight, and the preferred one is a preparation (the above sublingual tablet, buccal, etc.) which allows 90% or more of the concomitant drug to be dissolved (in water) within about 1 to about 60 minutes, preferably about 1 minutes to about 15 minutes, more preferably about 2 minutes to about 5 minutes, or a oral rapid disintegration preparation which disintegrates within about 1 to about 60 seconds, preferably about 1 to about 30 seconds, more preferably about 1 to about 10 seconds after being placed in an oral cavity.

[0133] The amount of the above excipient based on the entire preparation is about 10 to about 99% by weight, preferably about 30 to about 90% by weight. The amount of β-cyclodextrin or β-cyclodextrin derivative based on the entire preparation is about 0 to about 30% by weight. The amount of a lubricant based on the entire preparation is about 0.01 to about 10% by weight, preferably about 1 to about 5% by weight. The amount of an isotonicity based on the entire preparation is about 0.1 to about 90% by weight, preferably about 10 to about 70% by weight. The amount of a hydrophilic carrier based on the entire preparation is about 0.1 to about 50% by weight, preferably about 10 to about 30% by weight. The amount of a water-dispersible polymer based on the entire preparation is about 0.1 to about 30% by weight, preferably about 10 to about 25% by weight. The amount of a stabilizer based on the entire preparation is about 0.1 to about 10% by weight, preferably about 1 to about 5% by weight. If necessary, the above preparation may further contain additives such as colorants, sweeteners, preservatives, and the like.

[0134] While the dose of the combination drug of the present invention varies depending on the type of a concomitant drug, subject's age, body weight, condition, dosage form, administration mode, administration period, etc., the daily dose for example in a patient with prostate cancer (adult, body weight: about 60 kg) is as a concomitant drug about 0.01 to about 1000 mg/kg, preferably about 0.01 to about 100 mg/kg, more preferably about 0.1 to about 100 mg/kg, particularly about 0.1 to about 50 mg/kg, especially about 1.5 to about 30 mg/kg, which is administered intravenously at once or in several portions per day. It is a matter of course that the dose may vary depending on various factors as described above, and a less amount may sometimes be sufficient and an excessive amount should sometimes be required.

[0135] A concomitant drug may be used in any amount within the range causing no problematic side effects. The daily dose of a concomitant drug is not specifically limited and may vary depending on the severity of disease, subject's age, sex, body weight, susceptibility, administration period and intervals, pharmaceutical characteristics, preparation, type, kind of active component, and the daily oral dose per 1 kg body weight in a mammal is about 0.001 to 2000 mg, preferably about 0.01 to 500 mg, more preferably about 0.1 to about 100 mg as medicaments, which is usually administered once 1 to 4 portions per day.

[0136] When the combination drug or the present invention is administered, both GnRH agonist and concomitant drug may be administered at the same time, but it is also possible that a concomitant drug is first administered and then the GnRH agonist is administered, or that the GnRH agonist is first administered and then the concomitant drug is administered. When the GnRH agonist and a concomitant drug is administered separately at a time interval, the time interval may vary depending on the active component to be administered, dosage form and administration mode. For example, when a concomitant drug is first administered, the GnRH agonist may be administered within 1 minute to 3 days, preferably 10 minutes to 1 day, more preferably 15 minutes to 1 hour after the administration of the concomitant drug. When the GnRH agonist is first administered, then a concomitant drug may be administered within 1 minute to 1 day, preferably 10 minutes to 6 hours, more preferably 15 minutes to 1 hour after the administration of the GnRH agonist.

[0137] As to amino acids, peptides, protective groups and the like of the polypeptides described herein, when they are represented by abbreviations, they are the abbreviations based on IUPAC-IUB, Commission on Biological Nomenclature, or conventionally used in the art. As to amino acids, when an optical isomer is present, the abbreviation represents its L form unless otherwise stated.

[0138] Abbreviations are as follows.

Abu: Aminobutyric acid
Aibu: 2-Aminobutyric acid
Ala: Alanine
Arg; Arginine
Gly: Glycine
His: Histidine
Ile: Isoleucine
Leu: Leucine
Met: Methionine
Nle: Norleucoine
Nval: Norvaline
Phe: Phenylalanine
Phg: Phenylglycine
Pro: Proline
(Pyr)Glu: Pyrogultamic acid
Ser: Serine
Thr: Threonine
Trp: Triptophan
Tyr: Tyrosine
Val: Valine
D2Nal: D-3-(2-Naphthyl)alanine residue
DSer(tBu): O-tert-Butyl-D-serine
DHis (ImBzl): Nim-Benzyl-D-Histidine
PAM: Phenylacetamidemethyl
Boc: t-Butyloxycarbonyl
Fmoc: 9-Fluorenylmethyloxycarbonyl
Cl-Z: 2-Chloro-benzyloxycarbonyl
Br-Z: 2-Bromo-benzyloxycarbonyl
Bzl: Benzyl
Cl_2-Bzl: 2,6-Dichlorobenzyl
Tos: p-Toluenesulfonyl
HONb: N-Hydroxy-5-norbornene-2,3-dicarboximide
HOBt: 1-Hydroxybenzotriazole
HOOBt: 3-Hydroxy-3,4-dihydro-4-oxo-1,2,3-benzotriazine
MeBzl: 4-Methylbenzyl
Bom: Benzyloxymethyl
Bum: t-Butoxymethyl
Trt: Trityl
DNP: Dinitrophenyl
DCC: N,N'-Dicyclohexylcarbodiimide

EXAMPLES

[0139] The present invention will be further illustrated by the following Reference Examples and Example.

Reference Example 1

Leuprorelin acetate-containing microcapsules

[0140] Leuprorelin acetate (5.8 g) was dissolved in distilled water (6.7 ml). To this was added a dichloromethane solution (138 g) containing a polylactic acid (weight average molecular weight: 15000) (51.6 g) which was separately dissolved and filtered separately was added, and the mixture was stirred and emulsified for 9 minutes with an auto-mini-mixer (about 6000 rpm) and then adjusted to 15°C. The mixture was added to a 0.1% polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) aqueous solution (13.5 L) which was previously dissolved, filtered and adjusted at the same temperature, and then the mixture was emulsified. At this time, HOMOMIC LINE FLOW (TOKUSHU KIKA KOGYO CO., LTD.) was used and the emulsification was performed at a rotation speed of the mixer of about 7000 rpm. While stirring this W/O/W emulsion gently, the solvent was removed for about 3 hours (in-water drying method).

[0141] The resultant microcapsules were sieved through a 74 μm sieve to remove coarse particles, and then sepa-

rated by filtration or centrifugation. The microcapsules were washed with distilled water to remove free drug or PVA, redispersed in a small amount of water. Then, mannitol (8.7 g) was dissolved, and the mixture was sieved and freeze-dried. Drying was preformed with elevating tray temperature gradually, and continued for 69 hours at final temperature of 52°C. The mixture was sieved and ground to obtain a microcapsule powder. By this operation, 58 g of the microcapsule powder containing 15% D-mannitol was obtained.

Reference Examples 2

[0142]

Raloxyfene containing tablet		
(1)	Raloxyfene	5.0 mg
(2)	Table salt	20.0 mg
(3)	Distilled water	To total 2 ml

[0143] Raloxyfene (5.0 mg) and table salt (20.0 mg) are dissolved in distilled water and the solution is made up to 2.0 ml with water. The solution is filtered, and filled aseptically to a 2 ml ampoule. The ampoule is sterilized and sealed tightly to obtain a injectable solution.

Reference Example 3

[0144]

(1)	Raloxyfene	50 mg
(2)	Lactose	34 mg
(3)	Corn starch	10.6 mg
(4)	Corn starch (paste)	5 mg
(5)	Magnesium stearate	0.4mg
(6)	Calcium carboxymethylcellulose	20 mg
	Total	120 mg

[0145] In accordance with a conventional method, the components (1) to (6) were mixed and compressed into tablets with a tabletting machine.

Example 1

[0146] The preparation obtained in Reference Example 1 is combined with the preparation obtained in Reference Example 2 or 3.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

[0147] By using a GnRH agonist in combination with a certain drug, excellent effects such as improvement of the preventive or therapeutic effects on various diseases or relief for side effects can be obtained.

Claims

1. A pharmaceutical composition for preventing or treating breast cancer, precocious puberty, endometriosis, hysteromyoma, Alzheimer's disease, circulatory organ disease, menopausal syndrome, equivocal complaint, cancer metastasis, PMS (premenstrual syndrome), dysmenorrhea or calcium/phosphorus bone dysbolism which is a combination of a GnRH agonist and a SERM (selective estrogen receptor modulator) drug.

2. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the SERM drug is raloxifene, arzoxifene, lasofoxifene, TSE-424, SERM-3339 or SPC-8490.

3. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1 which is an improver of a fertilized ovum implantation rate

after treatment of endometriosis.

4. A method for preventing or treating breast cancer, precocious puberty, endometriosis, hysteromyoma, Alzheimer's disease, circulatory organ disease, menopausal syndrome, equivocal complaint, cancer metastasis, PMS, dysmenorrhea or calcium/phosphorus bone dysbolism, which comprises administering a combination of an effective amount of a GnRH agonist and an effective amount of a SERM agent to a mammal.

5. An Add-Back therapy which comprises administering a combination of an effective amount of a GnRH agonist and an effective amount of a SERM agent to a mammal.

6. A method for improving a fertilized ovum implantation rate after treatment of endometriosis which comprises administering a combination of an effective amount of a GnRH agonist and an effective amount of a SERM agent to a mammal.

7. A method for treating breast cancer or hysteromyoma which comprises administering a combination of an effective amount of a GnRH agonist and an effective amount of a SERM agent to a mammal to reduce the size of breast cancer or hysteromyoma, followed by a surgical operation or irradiation therapy.

8. A pharmaceutical composition for preventing or treating prostate cancer or prostatic hypertrophy which is a combination of a GnRH agonist and a SARM (selective androgen receptor modulator) drug.

9. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 8, wherein the SARM drug is LGD2226.

10. A method for treating prostate cancer or prostatic hypertrophy which comprises administering a combination of an effective amount of a GnRH agonist and an effective amount of a SARM drug to a mammal to reduce the size of prostate cancer or prostatic hypertrophy, followed by a surgical operation or irradiation therapy.

11. A pharmaceutical composition for preventing or treating prostate cancer, breast cancer, prostatic hypertrophy, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer or breast cancer, or metastasis of prostate cancer or breast cancer which is a combination of a GnRH agonist and a sex hormone synthesis inhibitor.

12. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 11, wherein the sex hormone synthesis inhibitor is a lyase inhibitor.

13. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 11 which is a MAB (Maximum androgen blockade) therapy agent.

14. A method for preventing or treating prostate cancer, breast cancer, prostatic hypertrophy, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer or breast cancer, or metastasis of prostate cancer or breast cancer which comprises administering a combination of an effective amount of a GnRH agonist and an effective amount of a lyase inhibitor to a mammal.

15. An MAB (maximum androgen blockade) therapy which comprises administering a combination of an effective amount of a GnRH agonist and an effective amount of a lyase inhibitor to a mammal.

16. A method for treating prostate cancer or breast cancer which comprises administering a combination of an effective amount of a GnRH agonist and an effective amount of a lyase inhibitor to a mammal to reduce the size of prostate cancer or breast cancer, followed by a surgical operation or irradiation therapy.

17. A pharmaceutical composition for preventing or treating prostate cancer, breast cancer, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer or breast cancer, or metastasis of prostate cancer or breast cancer which is a combination of a GnRH agonist and a receptor-type tyrosine kinase inhibitor.

18. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 17, wherein the receptor-type tyrosine kinase inhibitor is gefitinib, imatinib, semaxanib, SI-744, SU-6668, SU-101, GW-2016 or CI-1033.

19. A method for preventing or treating prostate cancer, breast cancer, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer or breast cancer, or metastasis of prostate cancer or breast cancer which comprises administering a combination

of an effective amount of a GnRH agonist and an effective amount of a receptor-type tyrosine kinase inhibitor to a mammal.

20. The method according to claim 19, wherein a combination of an effective amount of a GnRH agonist and an effective amount of a receptor-type tyrosine kinase inhibitor is administered according to a blood level of a solubilized HER2.

21. A pharmaceutical composition for preventing or treating prostate cancer, breast cancer, prostatic hypertrophy, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer or breast cancer, menopausal syndrome or calcium/phosphorus bone dysbolism which is a combination of a GnRH agonist and a bone metabolism modulator.

22. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 21, wherein the bone metabolism modulator is alendronic acid, etidronic acid, ibandronic acid, incadronic acid, risedronic acid, clodronic acid, pamidronic acid, olpadronic acid, zoledronic acid, tiludronic acid, neridronic acid, EB-1053, YH529, ipriflavone or osteoprotegerin.

23. A method for preventing or treating prostate cancer, breast cancer, prostatic hypertrophy, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer or breast cancer, menopausal syndrome or calcium/phosphorus bone dysbolism which comprises administering a combination of an effective amount of a GnRH agonist and an effective amount of a bone metabolism modulator to a mammal.

24. A pharmaceutical composition for preventing or treating prostate cancer, breast cancer, prostatic hypertrophy, endometriosis, hysteromyoma, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer or breast cancer or metastasis of prostate cancer or breast cancer which is a combination of a GnRH agonist and an immunotherapeutic agent.

25. A method for preventing or treating prostate cancer, breast cancer, prostatic hypertrophy, endometriosis, hysteromyoma, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer or breast cancer or metastasis of prostate cancer or breast cancer which comprises administering a combination of an effective amount of a GnRH agonist and an effective amount of an immunotherapeutic drug to a mammal.

26. The method according to claim 25, wherein a combination of an effective amount of a GnRH agonist and an effective amount of an immunotherapeutic agent is administered according to a blood level of a solubilized HER2.

27. A method for treating prostate cancer, breast cancer or hysteromyoma which comprises administering a combination of an effective amount of a GnRH agonist and an effective amount of an immunotherapeutic drug to a mammal to reduce the size of prostate cancer, breast cancer or hysteromyoma, followed by a surgical operation or irradiation therapy.

28. A pharmaceutical composition for preventing or treating prostate cancer, breast cancer, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer or breast cancer, or metastasis of prostate cancer or breast cancer which is a combination of a GnRH agonist and a cytokine/chemokine inhibitor.

29. A method for preventing or treating prostate cancer, breast cancer, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer or breast cancer, or metastasis of the prostate cancer or breast cancer which comprises administering a combination of an effective amount of a GnRH agonist and an effective amount of a cytokine/chemokine inhibitor to a mammal.

30. The method according to claim 29, wherein a combination of an effective amount of a GnRH agonist and an effective amount of a cytokine/chemokine inhibitor is administered according to a blood level of a solubilized HER2.

31. A pharmaceutical composition for preventing or treating prostate cancer, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer or metastasis of prostate cancer which is a combination of a GnRH agonist and an endothelin receptor antagonist.

32. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 31, wherein the endothelin receptor antagonist is atrasentan, YM-598, TA-0201, bosentan, SB-217242, SB-209670, TBC-11251, BQ-123, ABT-627 or a peptide represented by the formula:

Cyclo[-D-Asp-Asp(R1)-Asp-D-Thg(2)-Leu-D-Trp-]

wherein Asp(R1) is an aspartic acid β-4-phenylpiperazineamide residue and Thg(2) is a 2-thienylglycine residue, or a disodium salt thereof.

33. A method for preventing or treating prostate cancer, postoperative recurrence of prostate cancer or metastasis of prostate cancer which comprises administering a combination of an effective amount of a GnRH agonist and an effective amount of an endothelin receptor antagonist to a mammal.

34. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, 11, 17, 21, 24, 28 or 31, wherein the GnRH agonist is a peptide represented by the formula:

5-oxo-Pro-His-Trp-Ser-Tyr-Y-Leu-Arg-Pro-Z

wherein Y is a residue selected from DLeu, DAla, DTrp, DSer(tBu), D2Nal and DHis(ImBzl) and Z is NH-C_2H_5 or Gly-NH_2, or a salt thereof.

35. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 34, wherein the GnRH agonist is an acetate of the peptide represented by the formula:

5-oxo-Pro-His-Trp-Ser-Tyr-DLeu-Leu-Arg-Pro-NH-C_2H_5.

36. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, 11, 17, 21, 24, 28 or 31, wherein the GnRH agonist is used as a sustained release preparation or an implant.

37. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 36, wherein the sustained release preparation is a sustained release microcapsule.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/JP02/08130

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
Int.Cl[7] A61K45/06, A61K9/52, A61K31/4535, A61K31/58, A61K38/00, A61P3/14, A61P9/00, A61P13/08, A61P15/00, A61P15/08, A61P15/12, A61P19/00 A61P25/22, A61P25/28, A61P35/00,
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
Int.Cl[7] A61K45/06, A61K9/52, A61K31/4535, A61K31/58, A61K38/00, A61P3/14, A61P9/00, A61P13/08, A61P15/00, A61P15/08, A61P15/12, A61P19/00 A61P25/22, A61P25/28, A61P35/00,

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
WPI(DIALOG), BIOSIS(DIALOG), CAS(STN), MEDLINE(STN)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4472382 A (ROUSSEL-UCLAF), 18 September, 1984 (18.09.84), Full text; particularly, Claims 18 to 19; example 4 & FR 2465486 A1 & JP 56-55315 A & JP 61-118324 A & JP 5-9128 A & JP 5-9129 A & JP 6-65093 A & US 4728640 A & US 4743589 A & US 4745102 A & US 4851386 A & US 4981842 A & US 5189021 A & US 5389613 A & US 5688769 A & US 5712251 A	8,9,34-37

[x] Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. [ ] See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed
"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
11 October, 2002 (11.10.02)	19 November, 2002 (19.11.02)
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Japanese Patent Office	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 86/01105 A1 (LABRIE F), 27 February, 1986 (27.02.86), Full text; particularly, Claim 6 and later claims; examples 1, 2 & EP 195015 A1 & JP 62-500451 A & US 4659695 A & US 4666885 A & US 4760053 A & US 4775660 A & US 4775661 A & US 5023234 A & US 5064813 A	1-3,8,9, 11-13,34-37
X	WO 97/27863 A1 (SCHERING AG.), 07 August, 1997 (07.08.97), & DE 19604231 A1 & EP 877621 A1 & JP 2000-505422 A & US 2001/0041672 A & US 2002/0032156 A	1-3,34-37
E,X	JP 2002-241377 A (Takeda Chem. Ind. Ltd.), 28 August, 2002 (28.08.02), Full text; particularly, Claim 9; Par. Nos. [0002], [0086] (Family: none)	1-3,8,9, 11-13,17,18, 21,22,24,28, 31,32,34-37
E,X	JP 2002-241268 A (Takeda Chem. Ind. Ltd.), 28 August, 2002 (28.08.02), Full text; particularly, Par. No. [0074]; pages 24, column 45, lines 24 to 27 (Family: none)	1-3,8,9, 11-13,17,18, 21,22,24,28, 31,32,34-37
E,X	JP 2002-234843 A (Takeda Chem. Ind. Ltd.), 23 August, 2002 (23.08.02), Full text; particularly, Claim 13; Par. Nos. [0002], [0176] to [0177] (Family: none)	1-3,8,9, 11-13,17,18, 21,22,24,28, 31,32,34-37
P,X	JP 2002-80458 A (Takeda Chem. Ind. Ltd.), 19 March, 2002 (19.03.02), Full text; Claim 14; Par. Nos. [0002], [0026] (Family: none)	1-3,8,9, 11-13,17,18, 21,22,24,28, 31,32,34-37
P,X	WO 01/77107 A1 (Takeda Chem. Ind. Ltd.), 18 October, 2001 (18.10.01), Full text; particularly, Claims 15 to 18, 24 to 27, 31 to 39; pages 1 to 3; page 31, lines 5 to 30 & JP 2001-348385 A & JP 2002-69070 A	1-3,8,9, 11-13,17,18, 21,22,24,28, 31,32,34-37
X	WO 01/30764 A1 (Takeda Chem. Ind. Ltd.), 03 May, 2001 (03.05.01), Full text; particularly, Claim 12; page 1, line 11 to page 2, line 10; page 22, line 12 to page 23, line 5 & JP 2001-187784 A & EP 1227086 A1	1-3,8,9, 11-13,17,18, 21,22,24,28, 31,32,34-37

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/JP02/08130

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 00/07576 A2 (Endorecherche Inc.), 17 February, 2000 (17.02.00), Full text; particularly, Claims 29 to 30; page 1, line 7 to page 2, line 15; page 24, line 13 to page 33, last line & EP 1102582 A2 & JP 2002-522380 A	1-3,8,9, 11-13,17,18, 21,22,24,28, 31,32,34-37
X	WO 00/03979 A1 (Schering AG.), 27 January, 2000 (27.01.00), Full text; particularly, page 14, line 27 to page 15, line 11; page 19, line 23 to last line & DE 19833786 A1 & EP 1098874 A1 & US 2002/0068765 A & JP 2002-520388 A	1-3,8,9, 11-13,17,18, 21,22,24,28, 31,32,34-37
X	WO 99/54309 A1 (Takeda Chem. Ind. Ltd.), 28 October, 1999 (28.10.99), Full text; particularly, page 1, line 8 to page 2, line 4; page 30, line 28 to page 31, line 17 & JP 2000-07658 A & EP 1073640 A1	1-3,8,9, 11-13,17,18, 21,22,24,28, 31,32,34-37
X	WO 97/40846 A1 (Takeda Chem. Ind. Ltd.), 06 November, 1997 (06.11.97), Full text; particularly, page 159, lines 7 to 34 & EP 906115 A1 & JP 10-45625 A & US 6015789 A	1-3,8,9, 11-13,17,18, 21,22,24,28, 31,32,34-37
X	MICHAUD. L. B. et al., "Endocrine therapy of metastatic breast cancer", Seminars in Breast Disease, 2000, Vol.3, No.2, pages 100 to 111	1-3,34-37
X	MICHAUD. L. B. et al., "Complete estrogen blockade for the treatment of metastatic and early stage breast cancer", Drugs & Aging, 2000, Vol.16, No.4, pages 261 to 271	1-3,34-37
X	TRAYNOR, A., "Recent advances in hormonal therapy for cancer", Current Opinion in Oncology, 1995, Vol.7, No.6, pages 572 to 581	8,9,34-37
X	DOWLING, A.J. et al., "Systematic treatment for prostate cancer", Cancer Treatment Reviews, 1998, Vol.24, pages 283 to 301	8,9,34-37
X	PICKERSGILL, A., "GnRH agonists and add-back therapy: is there a perfect combination?", Br.J.Obstet.Gynecol., 1998, Vol.105, No.5, pages 475 to 485	21,22,34-37
X	SURREY, E.S. et al., "Effects of Sodium Etidronate in combination with low-dose norethindrone in patients administered a long-acting GnRH agonist: a preliminary report", Obstetetrics and Gynecology, 1993, Vol.81, No.4, pages 581 to 586	21,22,34-37

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/JP02/08130

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	MUKHERJEE, T. et al., "A randomized, placebo-controlled study on the effect of cyclic intermittent etidronate therapy on the bone mineral density changes associated with six months of gonadotropin-releasing hormone agonist treatment", Am.J.Obstet.Gynecol., 1993, Vol.175, No.1, pages 105 to 109	21,22,34-37
X	GAMBACCIANI, M. et al., "Ipriflavone prevents the bone mass reduction in premenopausal women treated with gonadotropin hormone-releasing hormone agonists", Bone and Mineral, 1994, Vol.26, No.1, pages 19 to 26	21,22,34-37
X	GAMBACCIANI, M. et al., "Ipriflavone prevents the loss of bone mass in pharmacological menopause induced by GnRH-agonist", Calcif. Tissue Int., 1997, Vol.61, Suppl.1, p.S15-S18	21,22,34-37
X	Chem.Abstr., Vol.129, 1998(Columbus, OH, USA), the abstract No.35986, BLACKLEDGE, G.R.P. et al., "Emerging drugs in prostate cancer", Emerging Drugs, 1998, Vol.3, pages 303 to 315	21,22,34-37
X	Chem.Abstr., Vol.131, 1999(Columbus, OH, USA), the abstract No.252762, SAKAMOTO, S. et al., "Prevention of osteopenia induced with a gonadotropin-releasing hormone agonist in rats", Calcif. Tissue Int., 1999, Vol.65, No.2, pages 152 to 155	21,22,34-37
X	YAHALOM, D. et al., "Hexapeptide and cyclic pentapeptide endothelin antagonists directly activate pituitary gonadotropin-releasing hormone receptors", Mol.Pharm., 2000, Vol.57, No.4, pages 718 to 724	31,32,34-37

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International application No.
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Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. [x] Claims Nos.: 4-7, 10, 14-16, 19, 20, 23, 25-27, 29, 30, 33
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Claims 4 to 7, 10, 14 to 16, 19, 20, 23, 25 to 27, 29, 30 and 33 each pertains to methods for treatment of the human body by therapy.

2. [ ] Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. [ ] Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. [ ] As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.

2. [ ] As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. [ ] As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. [ ] No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

[ ] The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

[ ] No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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(1)
In each of the claimed inventions, a compound defined by a desired characteristic, i.e., "a GnRH agonist" is employed in combination with a compound serving as a drug effect ingredient selected from among SERM/SARM/sex hormone synthesis inhibitors (lyase inhibitors)/tyrosine kinase inhibitors/bone metabolism regulators/drugs for immunotherapy/cytokine/chemokine inhibitors. However, it is recognized that only parts of the compounds involved in the claims (both of the former and latter compounds) are supported by the description under Article 6 of the PCT and disclosed therein under Article 5 of the PCT.

Even though the common technical knowledge at the point of the application is taken into consideration, it is impossible to specify a compound having the activity of the "GnRH agonist". Thus, each of the claimed inventions fails to fulfill the requirement of clearness as defined in Article 6 of the PCT.

Such being the case, the search was made on the combinations wherein leuprolelin, which was employed mainly in the working examples in the description of the present case, was employed as the former "GnRH agonist" while one of the individual compounds (raloxifene, etc.), which were specifically cited in claims and employed mainly in the working examples in the description of the present case, was employed as the latter compound serving as the active ingredient of the drug.

(2)
As stated in, for example, US 4472382 A, WO 86/01105 A1 and WO 97/27863 A1 among the documents presented in the column C of this international search report which have been clarified after examining the prior art, it is not novel to enhance the preventive and therapeutic effects on diseases by combining a GnRH agonist with SERM/SARM, etc. Accordingly, there is a high possibility that the inventions as set forth in claims 1, 8, 11, 17, 21, 24, 28 and 31, wherein it cannot be immediately recognized that the compounds to be combined with a GnRH agonist are not common, cannot be regarded as having a single general inventive concept in common.

Continuation of A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
(International Patent Classification (IPC))

Int.Cl^7 A61P43/00

(According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC)

Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED
Minimum Documentation Searched (International Patent Classification (IPC))

Int.Cl^7 A61P43/00

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

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